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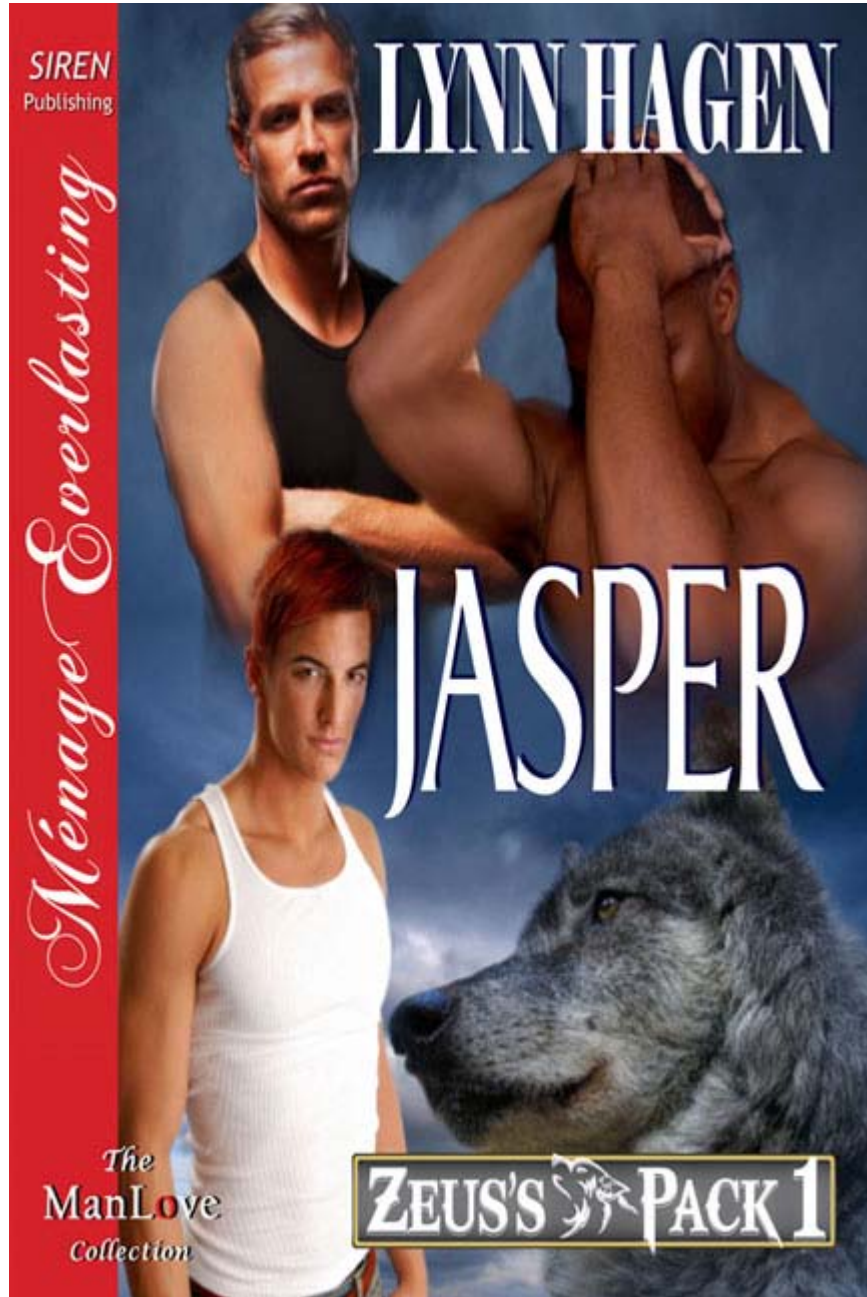
Ménage Everlasting

The
ManLove
Collection

LYNN HAGEN

JASPER

ZEUS'S  PACK 1



Zeus's Pack 1

Jasper

Jasper has finally taken the step to be with his mate, leaving everything and everyone he knows behind. Starting over is hard, especially when you find out your Alpha mate is controlling and dominating—something Jasper isn't going to stand for.

Zeus tries to cope with the fact that Jasper isn't as submissive as he wants him to be. Trying to model his relationship after what his parents had isn't working out so well. Can he give up his control in order to save his relationship?

Toby Kramer is human, and he's running from a man who wants to see him dead after finding out Toby unknowingly slept with the guy's partner. He ends up in Pride Pack Valley, trying to start over when an obviously committed couple makes a play for him. Toby wants no part of that.

Can Jasper teach Zeus to let go of his control while teaching Toby to trust that they aren't out to toy with him? Jasper has his hands full with his two men when trouble finds Toby and tries to take his little mate away from them.

Genre: Alternative (M/M or F/F), Ménage a Trois/Quatre, Vampires/Werewolves

Length: 31,828 words

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Zeus's Pack 1

Lynn Hagen

**MENAGE EVERLASTING
MANLOVE**



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DEDICATION

To everyone who has been waiting on Jasper's HEA.

JASPER

Zeus's Pack

LYNN HAGEN

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Chapter One

Okay, he could do this. Jasper climbed out of his truck, inhaling the fresh forest, pine scented air. It had been a long journey, and he almost made it to the Eastern pack located in Pride Pack Valley before his truck sputtered and died on him. It was just his luck that he decided to finally be with his mate and his truck broke down.

Now what? He tried his cell phone, but there was no reception out in this desolate place.

Grabbing a backpack with his essentials from the bed, he left his truck. He would have his intended mate, Zeus, have someone who could figure out what was wrong with it come get it, or at least tow it to the nearest garage.

Jasper stepped into the woods, deciding to foot it.

It was only a mile away. One stinking mile to go and his truck wanted to have a hissy fit. Fine, whatever. The damn thing could sit there and have a fit if it wanted to. He wasn't waiting around. Let a mechanic deal with it.

He sighed as he looked around. This was new territory for him. Jasper was used to the forest surrounding his old pack, the Brac Pack. He missed them terribly, but since he had discovered that his mate was the Alpha of the Eastern pack, what could he do?

There was only one choice, a choice he had fought against for months. He had feared leaving behind everything he knew, everyone he knew, especially his best friend, Cody. That was why he fought it so hard. The fear of the unknown could do that to a guy.

Jasper pulled his backpack tighter to his shoulder, hearing a low growl off to his right. He was a Timber wolf. His hearing was superior above all other wolf breeds.

Just his luck he was mated to a Grey wolf. Timber wolves were the largest, fiercest creatures around. Rumor amongst Timbers was that Grey wolves were lazy, deaf, and blind. He prayed this wasn't true because he was about to become part of their pack.

Jasper walked casually, not letting whoever it was know that he was aware of their presence. He didn't know any of the pack members he was heading to except the Alpha, and he really only talked with him briefly.

So was the person following him part of his new pack or a rogue wolf? The Brac pack was having trouble with rogue wolves. The ex-Alpha of the Eastern pack seemed to have gathered followers, and they were out for blood. Jackson, the defeated Alpha that once ruled over the Eastern pack, wanted the whole Brac pack dead, but luckily they weren't that easy to kill.

"Why are you trespassing in my territory?" A deep baritone sounding voice came from behind a tree to his right.

Jasper kept walking, giving no attention or acknowledgement to the wolf.

Maybe the soldiers from the new pack he was heading to would scent him and come to his aid. He was a Timber wolf, but the smallest of the old pack he just left.

Jasper was only five foot nine and one hundred and ninety pounds, a shrimp compared to his old pack mates. Alpha Maverick of the Brac pack was six foot nine, a giant among them.

"I asked you a question, Red." The voice growled again, this time lower, more menacingly.

“Duh, I’m ignoring you. Get it?” Jasper rolled his eyes. He could take on one lone wolf, piece of cake. He hated when people called him Red. Just because he *had* red hair didn’t make the nickname likable.

Jasper came to a halt when a massive shadowy figure emerged from behind the tree where he had been lurking. Holy crap, maybe he would need just a little help with this one.

The stranger stood almost as tall as his old Alpha. Jasper gulped. Although the guy was stunning, he was also scary. His short, black, curly hair surrounded his golden face. There was something about him that warned Jasper to be very cautious.

He might be hot, but Jasper wasn’t stupid enough to ignore that dark foreboding in the man’s features.

The topaz eyes glared at him, daring him to take one more step. Jasper, being who he was, took it.

“I wouldn’t go any farther if I was you. The next step could be fatal.” The menacing figure advanced, grabbing Jasper by his throat. “I asked why you were in my territory,” he snarled close to Jasper’s face.

“Taking a basket to grandma?”

“Try again, Red.” The hand clenched tighter. Okay, the guy didn’t have a sense of humor, so much for joking his way out of this.

“Stop calling me Red, damn it. It’s Jasper, not fucking Red.” With a hand wrapped around his throat, squeezing tightly, Jasper crossed his arms over his chest and rolled his eyes once more.

If he was going to die, there was no use crying and begging. He didn’t beg even on a good day, at least not to strangers. In bed was a totally justified excuse and hot as hell to do.

“Did you say Jasper? As in Alpha Zeus’s Jasper?” The hand eased its death grip, the man’s face going from red with anger to the paleness of fear.

“Uh, yeah, and who might you be?” He pushed the man off of him, straightening his clothes. He hated wrinkles, and this guy’s

attitude sucked as well. Jasper reached down and snatched up his backpack that had fallen, angrily shoving it back onto his shoulder.

"I am Torem, Beta to Alpha Zeus. My apologies to you, but we've been fighting a lot of rogue wolves lately since Jackson's capture." Torem looked like he was going to be sick, his Latino skin turning a weird shade of green.

"I'll forgive you if you can get me to my mate." Jasper smacked his backpack into Torem's chest and dusted the dried leaves from his pressed shirt, then stuck his hand out, letting the wolf know he needed to show Jasper the way.

"Prissy, aren't you?" The Beta curled his lip up.

"Not really, I just usually don't like to be choked before dinner. Messes with my appetite." Jasper couldn't hold it in, so he began to laugh at the sour look on the Beta's face. He prayed all the soldiers in the Eastern pack weren't as uptight as this guy was. He inwardly sighed at the work he had cut out for him if they were.

"I apologized. What more do you want?" Torem growled, smashing the backpack in his fist.

Jasper tilted his head, hearing leaves crinkle under someone's feet. "Someone's following us," he whispered as they walked in the direction he assumed was the Alpha's home.

"Yes, I know. I am actually pretty good at my job. It's Bald Eagle, the second Beta. A couple of the soldiers as well," Torem snapped.

Wow, the guy gets really riled up when accidentally trying to choke the shit out of his Alpha's mate. Jasper held his side as laughter took over. "I thought the Sentries of the Brac pack had funny names. Bald Eagle?" He began to laugh again, snorting as a tear rolled down from his eye.

"It isn't that funny," Torem muttered.

Jasper sighed. This was not going the way he had hoped it would. He prayed that only Torem was a prick, not the whole pack.

He suddenly remembered the three Asian men that Alpha Maverick had sent here. Maybe he would occupy his time with them,

leaving the sour wolves alone. Would they be like the mates, Kyoshi and his cousin Keata, sweet and funny, hyper and inquisitive? One could only hope.

The five men had been kidnapped from Japan and brought over to be sex slaves. Kyoshi and Keata had fled their captors. The other three hadn't been so lucky. Although Jasper didn't know the details of what happened in the hands of the bad guys, he was glad they were rescued when his old Alpha sent Sentries to crash the place the three men were being held and took the three short men away.

The three now resided here.

"Here we are." They cleared the forest, Torem pointing to a grand home, almost like the estate he just left behind. They climbed the front steps, Torem opening the door for him.

Jasper noticed how eerily quiet it was. The sound of the door opening and echoing throughout the foyer gave him the willies. He was waiting to hear an organ playing off in the distance somewhere.

He was used to rock music blasting throughout The Den, mates and warriors shouting, and video games in surround sound. This was more like a crypt. He wouldn't be surprised to see headstones lining the hallway.

"If you'll come with me, I'll take you to Zeus." Torem waved Jasper along, their footsteps echoing off the walls. Hell no, there were going to be some changes around here.

If he wanted solace like this, he would enter a nursing home. What did these guys do for fun? Did they even know what fun was?

Jasper looked around at the layout. They entered a large foyer, a staircase winding up on either side of an open balcony upstairs. The walls were oak paneling, making the place seem stuffy.

There was a room off to the left and right of the foyer, and he wondered if either of the two were a den. Next to the room on the right was a long hallway, same as the old estate, and there were doors after doors. What was it with these big houses and a gazillion rooms?

He needed to find where the kitchen was. Jasper loved to cook and

show off his culinary skills. Would these guys even appreciate it? The mate, Johnny, back in his old pack used to sit on his knees in the kitchen chair and drool while Jasper cooked, waiting for the food to finish so he could devour it.

Would any of the wolves here act that way or turn their collective nose up at his hard work?

“Here we are.” Torem knocked, giving Jasper a sideways glance.

“Don’t worry, I’m not going to rat you out.” Jasper chuckled then waited to enter until a booming, deep voice called for them to come in.

Jasper’s humor fled, replaced by anxiety. What if Zeus waited all this time only to realize Jasper wasn’t what he wanted in a mate? Would he be appealing to him? Would he be enough for the large Alpha? What if he wasn’t? What would Zeus do then?

Oh god, he was going to be sick. He couldn’t do this. He wanted to go back to his old pack and forget about the whole thing. What the hell had he been thinking?

Jasper turned to run away.

Torem grabbed him by the scruff of his collar. “No you don’t. You have no idea what it’s been like around here since he found you and you refused to come home with him. No thanks. Now get your skinny ass in there.” Torem opened the door and shoved Jasper through.

He stumbled in, righting himself as he looked back at Torem. Bastard.

Jasper shot daggers at Torem. He *would* get even. The Beta grinned and shut the door, closing Jasper in with Zeus.

“Turn around, mate, I wish to see you.” Zeus spoke softly, as softly as a six foot eleven, three hundred and ten pound man could.

Jasper let out a breath and slowly turned. He had forgotten how utterly gorgeous his mate was with chocolate brown skin. It was so smooth and lickable that Jasper’s mouth watered.

When his eyes meet his mate’s, Jasper could feel his heart beating

faster, and he was trembling for the first time in his life.

“Come, sit with me.” Zeus patted the seat next to him on the large sofa in his office.

Jasper walked to him with hesitation. The guy was a beast compared to his own stature, huge as hell and scary to boot. Jasper wasn’t a lightweight, and he could hold his own, but this man looked as though Mother Nature herself formed him from the earth.

“Don’t be afraid. I smell your fear. Know that I would never hurt you, mate.” Zeus held his hands out, and Jasper laid his in them. His hands swallowed Jasper’s. He looked at their skin touching and was in awe of the color contrast, deep chocolate and pale vanilla. It was beautiful.

Jasper took a seat next to his mate. “I’m—I’m not afraid. Long walk, a little musty is all.” Jasper laid his hand on Zeus’s chest, feeling the connection, the pull to be claimed. He stared into his mate’s deep brown eyes, getting lost in them. Zeus pulled Jasper closer, wrapping those massive arms around him.

This is what he wanted, what he had craved since he laid eyes on him outside The Café. His cock hardened and his hole clenched thinking of this big man claiming him.

“Shall I show you to our room? You could freshen up. Where are your things?” Zeus stood with Jasper still in his arms.

“Please.” Okay, so he was acting like a helpless female. Who cared? He got to be in his mate’s arms. It was somewhere he hoped to be for a long time now. “I had car problems, had to leave it on the side of the road.” Jasper tossed in a giggle for good measure.

“I’ll send one of my soldiers to retrieve it. Have no worry, butterfly, your things are safe.”

Butterfly? Oh, Jasper was going to have some fun with him. He could tell Zeus was imagining his mate as a helpless soul, yeah right. Jasper mentally snorted.

“I’ll leave you to wander about, explore your new home, or would you rather I take you?”

“I can manage.” Jasper batted his eyes lashes, seeing Zeus’s nostrils slightly flare. *Oh yeah, gonna have a lot of fun with him.* He picked up his backpack and wiggled his fingers to say goodbye as he walked out of the door and closed it behind him.

Once outside, Jasper leaned against the wall, blowing out a long breath. This was going to take a lot of getting used to. Not only was he in a strange house, but that was his mate in there. *Holy shit*, he’d finally done it. He was finally with his mate.

Jasper pushed from the wall, feeling a little more composed. He wandered around, finally asking one of the soldiers where the Alpha’s bedroom was.

Dropping his bag onto the bed, Jasper kicked his shoes off and then pulled his socks free, curling his toes in the deep carpet. He looked around, getting nosey as hell about what was in his mate’s bedroom. As he finished his search, he realized it was just ordinary stuff people kept in their bedroom, not a damn thing interesting.

Tired and musty, Jasper headed into the bathroom to enjoy a long and hot shower. If today was any indication of what it was like to live in this particular pack, then maybe the shower would drown him.

Jasper finished his shower, got dressed, and headed back downstairs, seeing two soldiers in the living room. With absolutely nothing else to do, he walked in and took a seat next to them.

Jasper sat in the living room, ready to scratch his own eyes out for something to do. He watched the two soldiers yell at the television as the football game played.

That was about it.

There needed to be more mates here, a video game system, and a pool table, definitely a bar because Jasper planned on getting drunk off of his ass just to forget what he had left behind. Too bad Timber wolves couldn’t get drunk, but the idea helped his nerves. Jasper’s head fell back, staring up at the ceiling.

This. Shit. Was. Boring.

He blew out his breath, lifted his head, and looked around the

living room. There were only couches and a big screen television. *Someone shoot me, please.*

“You all right over there?” one of the soldiers asked Jasper.

“Just peachy, a root canal is always pleasant.” He pasted a big smile on his face.

The guy laughed. “I hear ya, not much to do around here. I’m Rave.” The wolf reached over and shook Jasper’s hand. “This here is Taz.” He pointed to a mahogany-haired guy.

“Hi, Taz.” Jasper leaned forward and waved his fingers.

“You really prissy, or was Torem messing with us?” Taz asked him as he eyed Jasper questioningly.

“Actually, I was messing with Torem.” Jasper yawned, kicked his legs out, and strummed his fingers on the back of the couch. “Sooooo...” He pursed his lips. “What’s there to do around here, eat lead paint?”

Taz laughed and shook his head, settling back to watch the game.

Pushing from the couch, Jasper walked behind it to the open area with absolutely nothing occupying the space. He bent over, stretching his left hand out while his right hand rocked back and forth behind him.

“Playing imaginary pool?” Rave asked from over the couch.

“I’ll play ya.” Taz jumped up and walked around to join Jasper. He chalked an imaginary pool stick and leaned back, waiting for Jasper to take his air shot.

“Solids,” Jazz called as he walked around the empty space, calling his next shot.

Jasper noticed the two soldiers had identical tattoos on their necks. What was up with that? “You guys join a gang?” He pointed to Taz’s neck.

Taz shook his head, anger pulling his lip back. “It was Jackson’s idea. He wanted his pack emblem on his soldiers and in a spot for all to see.”

“You could get it removed.” He actually liked it, but if it was Jackson’s idea, he would have scratched it off himself when Jackson had gone down like the bitch he was.

The tattoo was two swords crossed over one another with a wolf’s head in the middle. It really was very nice.

“No, it’s a reminder of what we survived.”

Jasper nodded, leaving the subject alone.

* * * *

Rave sat there opened-mouthed. The two had gone crazy and were trying to take him with them. What the hell did Zeus get himself into? They had waited months for the Alpha’s mate to join their pack, for this?

“You scratched.” Taz held his hand out to the redhead. “My turn.” He leaned over, taking his imaginary shot. “Sunk three balls.”

“Sounds like a personal problem. No cheating.” Jasper narrowed his eyes.

“I don’t cheat,” Taz snapped, pounding his imaginary stick onto the floor.

“What is going on in here?”

Rave looked over to see Zeus standing in the doorway. Pointing to the redhead, he said, “He called Taz a cheater.”

“Well, if the shoe fits.” Jasper leaned his imaginary pool stick against the wall. “You did not sink three balls. I was watching. One at best.”

“They’re playing pool,” Rave offered his confused Alpha. This only confused the big guy more. Zeus stood there with his head tilted sideways and his brows pulled together, staring at his mate and Taz.

“Would you like me to purchase a real table, mate?”

“God, yes. And a poker table, a dart board, and a video game system. Oh yeah, and a bunch of little men that act as though they’ve eaten too much sugar.”

Zeus quirked a brow at the list his mate rattled off.

Jasper blew out a breath. "It's what I'm used to. The noise and chaos. Little mates jumping around to rock music as they play their video games, fighting over the pool table, playing pretzel poker, and eating everything that wasn't nailed down in the kitchen. It's just so..." Jasper looked around with his hands swirling in front of him. "Quiet here. It's creepy."

Zeus pulled his mate into his arms, running a knuckle down the side of Jasper's face. "I know it's a big change for you, going from one pack to another. I'll get you anything you need to make the change easier on you, except the little men. Mates will come with time. We do have three to start you off with, though they're not mated."

Rave rolled his eyes. He could see now that the redhead was going to get whatever he wanted, and Zeus was going to follow blindly behind him.

Jasper beamed up at Zeus. "Really? You would do that for me?"

"You'll change your mind when you meet those three." Rave shuddered. "They make up for twenty mates running around."

"I hear you say, but not nice." One of the mentioned little men came strolling into the living room, glaring at Rave.

"Hello, menacing," Rave taunted.

"It's Minsheng for hundredth time."

Rave watched as the short man crossed his arms over his chest and narrowed his eyes at the Alpha's mate. *Let's see how the redhead handles Mr. Mouth.*

"Oh yeah, now this I'm used to." Jasper stuck out his hand. "I'm Jasper."

Minsheng looked Jasper up and down, ignoring the offered hand. "Another soldier?" he sneered.

"Enough, Minsheng," Zeus warned. Rave started to wonder if he should rescue the little brat before the Alpha choked the shit out of Minsheng.

“He’s adorable,” Jasper cooed at the man.

Rave jumped up and grabbed Minsheng when the little brat flipped Jasper off, Zeus shooting his hand out to throttle him.

“Let’s go, menacing.” Rave carried the guy away.

* * * *

Jasper watched Rave carry “menacing” away. “Is he always so prickly?” Jasper found himself a new buddy. He liked the guy’s spunk. He was a little fierce, but oh well, all the more interesting.

“That’s him on a good day.” Zeus chuckled.

Jasper stood there caught in a spell. His mate’s smile lit up his whole face. His cock was getting hard just looking at those deep set dimples. What a prize fate had given him, *grrr*.

Jasper slid his hands up Zeus’s chest, wanting to climb this mountain and stick of flag of triumph on his head. Those big brown eyes stared down at him with longing, which was why Jasper was puzzled as hell when Zeus grabbed his wrists in a gentle hold and pulled his hands away.

“Would you like to tour our pack lands?”

Hell no, he wanted to be claimed, and then fucked, and then have hot and funky sex. It didn’t matter in which order, as long as all three contained sex. What was up with his mate?

“Okay,” he answered demurely. Jasper had no clue why he was acting this way with Zeus. Demure and submissive weren’t even in his ballpark. There was something about the big guy that made him feel so fragile.

What the fuck?

If he wanted celibacy, he would have stayed at Maverick’s. Maybe Zeus was nervous? He was too, but that didn’t stop him from wanting to climb the walls as he shouted hallelujah.

Fine, his cock could wait, even though it was pounding behind his slacks, begging to break free.

He pouted and followed behind the big guy. Zeus held the door open for him, took Jasper's hand in his, and led him around pack land. "We are mostly pack here. The town has quite a number of humans who live here, but all the businesses are pack-owned. Only the soldiers and Betas live in our home, for protection reasons of course. Everyone else has their own."

Jasper was fascinated to learn this. A pack-run town, how cool was that? "Do the humans know about the Grey wolves?"

"No, and we plan on keeping it that way. It's better for us if they don't know, less chance of our existence coming to light." Zeus led him down a path that ended at a pond. It was simply magnificent. Water lilies floated around, with fish swimming to and fro. Jasper knew he just discovered his *think* spot.

"I discovered this little paradise when I first took over the pack. It's beautiful." Zeus shocked Jasper. He didn't seem like the type to appreciate beauty. Zeus was more of the type to kill and walk away without a backward glance.

Jasper heard before he saw Rave walking at a fast pace up to them.

"Alpha, we have a problem."

Chapter Two

Zeus was irritated as hell at the interruption. He let his mate's hand go, turning to his top soldier. "What?" he snapped.

Rave took a step back, his features creasing with worry as he looked from Zeus to Jasper. "Eagle spotted a vampire trying to sneak into our territory."

Zeus was informed by Alpha Maverick that they existed, but he never thought they would travel this far east. His first thought was of his mate. "Let's go." He grabbed Jasper by his upper arm, pulling him toward the house.

"I'm not helpless, you know. I am a Timber wolf." Jasper tried to argue, but Zeus wasn't trying to hear it. The thought of his mate in a fight tightened his stomach.

"Not here, you aren't. You're my mate and will be protected at all cost." What happened to the submissive man he thought Jasper was? Zeus groaned. Did he have another hellion on his hands like the three men Maverick pawned off on him?

Zeus wanted the submissive man back. This guy next to him had a little too much fire for his liking.

"Protect this." Jasper gave him a raspberry and jerked his arm free. Was the guy insane? Zeus grabbed for him again, but his mate took off running.

"Damn it." He roared, shifting and giving chase. This was not the time for his mate to show his independence. There was a fucking vampire out there somewhere.

"Oh shit," Jasper yelled when he spotted Zeus closing in on him. His mate seemed to panic and add a burst of speed, but Zeus knew

these woods like the back of his hand now. He feigned left but shot right, circling around to effectively cut Jasper off.

“Damn it, stop trying to scare the crap out of me,” Jasper panted, taking a step back.

Zeus stopped running and began to trot over to him, only to have Jasper take off in the opposite direction, laughing as he fled.

Zeus heart leapt out of his chest when he saw his soldiers taking formation, boxing in his mate.

They were in wolf form, which meant they weren’t playing around. He quickened his pace, chasing down his mate, who was still in human form. Man, could the guy run fast.

“Zeus, what the hell is going on?” Jasper shouted as he skidded to a halt, his chest heaving as his mate backed away from the wolves’ slow advance.

Zeus jumped in front of Jasper, growling at the soldiers. They wouldn’t have hurt him, but they would have prevented him from going any further, and with the way his mate was acting, the outcome wouldn’t have been favorable for any of them.

The wolves backed off, bowing their heads and retreating. Zeus shifted, grabbing Jasper by his arm. “What the hell did you take off like that for?”

Jasper shrank back, and then tugged to free his arm. “I told you I could take care of myself. Stop getting all caveman on me.” Jasper’s glance drifted around, looking everywhere but at Zeus. He felt like shit for yelling at his mate, but the redhead needed to learn his place, and the sooner, the better.

“I won’t have you out here on your own, not when vampires have come this far east and rogues are still on the loose.” Zeus pulled Jasper along with him, taking him back to the house. He didn’t care how Maverick ran his pack. Jasper was finally here, and he would learn to do things the right way.

His mate didn't argue. He let Zeus pull him in through the back door and straight to their bedroom. "You will not be fighting any vampires or rogues. You will not be fighting at all."

"Who the hell are you to tell me what to do? I made it past two centuries before you came along and have done just fine," Jasper snarled darkly.

Zeus would never admit that his mate's attitude was turning him on. That would only give Jasper an excuse to run around half-cocked, chasing down rogues, but he did like his fire. His mouth was something else though. "I'm your mate, Alpha of this pack, and you will obey me."

"Yeah, I'll get right on that." Jasper huffed as he walked across the room and into the bathroom, slamming the door closed.

"Fuck!" Zeus shouted. He had another damn menace on his hands, just great. He paced his home for months, pining for his mate, and to find out he was just as difficult as Minsheng? Just fucking fantabulous. "Get out here!" he shouted at the bathroom door.

"Hell no," Jasper yelled through the door. "When you learn to act like you have some sense, I *may* come out."

Zeus dropped down on the bed, having no clue how to handle this situation. He was the Alpha, and Jasper was supposed to listen to him, so why wasn't he? What the hell was he going to do now?

"Jasper, get out here, or I'm coming in," he warned.

"No."

"I'm going to count to five." It worked eons ago when his mother said it to him. She didn't get past one, and Zeus was scrambling to obey her. Hopefully it worked on his redhead.

"Ha, you may want to take your boots off for that."

Zeus ran his hand down his face, pissed off beyond belief. His mate had one smart-ass mouth, something Zeus was going to break him of. "One."

"Is for the brain cells you have."

"Two." He growled.

“Is for the balls you’ll lose if you come in here.”

“Three.”

“Is for the many ways I can say piss off, go to hell, and stop talking to me, damn it.”

Zeus stood, walking closer to the door. “Four.”

“Is for the centuries you’ll be sexless if you break this door down.”

“Five,” he growled loudly at the door.

“Do it, and I’ll pop a cap in your ass, buddy.”

Zeus’s brows pulled together in a frown. What the hell was wrong with the guy? He couldn’t understand for the life of him why his mate was so disobedient. Placing his hand on the knob, Zeus tried to turn it slowly to see if it was locked.

“I’m a Timber wolf. I can hear that,” Jasper sang.

Zeus shoved his shoulder into the door, the hinges protesting as it swung open and slammed against the wall. Jasper tried to run past him, but Zeus pulled his squirming mate into his arms.

“Let me go,” Jasper shouted.

Zeus ignored him, taking him over to the bed and tossing him down. Jasper bounced twice and then rolled to his knees. “Want some of this, big boy?” he asked as he wiggled his ass at Zeus.

Every cell in him locked into place. If he gave in now, Jasper would think he had won, always acting against Zeus’s wishes. No, he couldn’t give his mate what he wanted, and it was killing him. He watched that tight little ass sway back and forth, a big grin on that gorgeous face that said, *come fuck me*.

With the strength of ten gods, Zeus took a step back. “Not until you learn to obey.” *Speak for yourself*, his cock protested.

He took another step back and then turned. Being naked wasn’t helping his cause. Zeus snagged a pair of jeans from the dresser, yanking them on before finishing this discussion. He hated that his clothes shredded when he shifted. It made for an expensive ass clothing bill.

Safely tucked away, Zeus turned and damn near fell over. How the hell did Jasper get naked so fast?

He had to get out of here. His resolve was five seconds, no, one second away from crumbling. They could talk later.

Zeus walked casually to the door, trying his best to seem unaffected as he pulled it open and closed it behind him. Walking away from that spectacular view was the hardest thing he had ever done.

He pressed the palm of his hand into his erection. It was pulsing to be free and invade. Zeus wiped his brow as he walked downstairs, feeling the need to run back upstairs and claim what was his, but the little voice in the back of his head was reminding him why he was walking away in the first place. *He must learn to obey.*

Zeus tapped his thumb on his thigh, pacing the halls manically. He had to make his erection deflate before he gave in and raced back up those steps and tackled his mate.

Jasper had a lethal mouth on him, something Zeus wasn't used to. They all obeyed, mostly. The three small men were a different story.

Why couldn't his mate do as he was told? He didn't make it complicated. *Just do as you're told, and we'll get along fine. How hard is that?*

"What's got you in a tizzy?" the soldier Avanti asked.

Zeus came out of thought, staring at Avanti as if he had just appeared there out of thin air. "What?"

"I said, what's got you in a tizzy?"

"Oh." Zeus ran his hand over his bald head, wondering why he was letting his mate get to him. He was strong, sure, and confident. The Alpha of an entire town, and one little redhead was *not* going to make him lose his mind. "Just wondering what to do about the vampire Eagle spotted."

The soldier just stared at him a moment. Zeus couldn't blame him. He *never* wondered what to do. He just did it. This was out of

character for him. All of this questioning himself was. The damn redhead had him losing his mind.

“I would suggest you tighten up the guard watch.” Avanti didn’t say it as a suggestion, more like he was coaxing it out of Zeus.

“Talk to Torem and have it set up.” Zeus waved him away. To hell with this, he wasn’t going to pace anymore. Jasper was finally his, and it was about high time the little guy realized what that entailed.

“Also.” Zeus waited for Avanti to turn around. “Have my mate brought to my office.” This ought to be fun to watch.

“Yes, Alpha.” Avanti gave a slight bow and went to do as told. See, that wasn’t so hard. Why couldn’t Jasper do that?

Zeus walked to his office, sitting behind his desk and trying his best to look casual. He shifted around, trying out a few different poses before he heard Jasper all the way down the hall.

“I don’t care what he wants. Touch me again, and I’ll tie your nuts into a bow.”

Zeus actually felt sorry for Avanti. The guy was probably pulling patience from his ass in order to deal with Jasper. A flustered-looking soldier came through the door first, his face tight as he pointed to Zeus.

“You bellowed?” Jasper crossed his arms over his chest and pursed his lips. He’d have to call Maverick and ask him if this was how Jasper normally acted. If it was, he was surprised the Alpha hadn’t shoved Jasper into his arms when they met.

“I believe we can come to some sort of compromise. I’m a reasonable man.” He waved his hand toward a seat. His mate’s face softened. He smiled and sat down, looking to Zeus for guidance. “I won’t tell you anything wrong, so why is it so hard for you to listen to me?”

Jasper’s smile faltered. “This is what you call a compromise?” When Zeus nodded, Jasper continued. “I thought I had made the right decision about coming here. You don’t want a mate. You want a yes-

boy. I'm sorry, Zeus, that's not who I am. And I'm also sorry you can't accept me for who I am." Jasper spoke softly.

"Now wait." Zeus held a hand up when Jasper stood. "Sit, talk."

"About what, how I can better serve you?" Jasper pulled at the hem of his shirt. "Just type out a memo, I'll be sure to get a copy."

Zeus didn't stop his mate. Instead, he watched the saddened man walk away and wondered how he could be screwing this up so badly. His mother had always obeyed his father, and their household was in complete harmony as a child.

All Zeus wanted was the same. He knew no other way to be. His father had made all of the decisions, ruled with a loving hand. Zeus wanted that same harmony, that same devotion he saw in his mother.

Pushing away from his desk, Zeus decided a long walk was in order.

* * * *

Avanti watched the Alpha's mate close the door quietly, tears apparent in his eyes. He hadn't liked the obnoxious man at first, but seeing anyone this sad gave him pause.

He really didn't know Jasper's story, so he would reserve judgment until he got to know the Timber wolf a little better. From what Taz said, the guy was a riot. So far Avanti hadn't seen that, but being someplace strange must be upsetting to say the least.

Jasper walked down the hall briskly, heading straight into the living room. Avanti followed, curious about the man. He chuckled to himself. Minsheng was in there. This should be interesting.

"Hello, Minsheng." Jasper smiled.

"You soldier?" Minsheng narrowed his eyes, placing his small hands on his hips. Avanti really liked the little guy. He had spirit.

"No, I'm Zeus's mate."

Minsheng looked puzzled. "But you man."

Avanti couldn't understand Minsheng's confusion. The three men had been forced into prostitution. It wasn't a secret that the clientele were men. So why was the little man baffled?

"Yes, the last time I checked I was. Although lately I'm beginning to wonder." The Alpha's mate mumbled the last part. What exactly was going on?

Avanti nodded when Torem joined him, both watching the redhead and the menace getting to know one another.

"Guy seems a little prissy to me," Torem commented.

"I thought so, too, and obnoxious as well." Avanti shook his head, "I think there's more to him than that, though."

Torem curled his lip. "All I know is that our Alpha waited a very long time for Red to get here, and for what, so he can look down on us? He shouldn't think he's better than everyone else. He's not even all that."

Avanti smelled the flourish of sadness coming from the living room. He cursed when he realized what he shouldn't have forgotten. Jasper was a Timber wolf, able to hear their conversation.

The redhead went on talking, acting as though he hadn't heard a thing Avanti and Torem just talked about.

Avanti felt like shit.

* * * *

Zeus pulled the ear buds out, coming in from his jog. He set his MP3 player on the counter and grabbed an orange juice from the refrigerator. Even though he loved to run in his wolf form, he was an oddball among shifters. Wolves weren't supposed to love jogging in human form.

He gulped the juice straight down and tossed the bottle and lid. The run helped clear his mind, but he still hadn't come up with a solution to his problem. How was he going to handle his mate?

"Enjoy your run?" Torem asked as he came into the kitchen.

“Same as always.” Zeus rolled his shoulders, wanting a hot shower now to relax the muscles he could feel tensing. It seemed the run hadn’t done any good after all.

“Your mate’s in the living room with Menacing.”

“It’s Minsheng. Try and use it.” The small guy was a menace, but Zeus liked him. It probably didn’t help his self-esteem to have everyone calling him out of his name. The three men may keep him supplied in aspirin, but they never asked to be forced into such horrendous circumstances.

“Touchy today,” Torem teased, pulling the chair back from the kitchen table and taking a seat.

He never talked about his feelings, and he wasn’t going to start now. Besides, he didn’t want to hear what his Beta had to say. He’d figure out a solution on his own.

“I’m not touchy, just tired.” Zeus grabbed another bottle of juice and left his Beta to go find his mate. Although things weren’t going well, the pull to be near Jasper was undeniable.

Jasper was still engaged in conversation with Minsheng, only now Yasuko was in there with him. He was the quiet one of the bunch, and Zeus always kept an eye on the quiet ones. It seemed that no matter where Minsheng was, Yasuko wasn’t too far behind. Those two stuck together like glue. It was rare to see Minsheng without him. The third man was Kamiko, but he was nowhere to be found, as usual.

“So you play these games and they fun?” Minsheng asked Jasper.

“Oh yes, I’ll have to see if I can get my hands on a system. I’ll show you how to have a blast.” Jasper laughed.

Zeus was once again in awe of the musical voice. Maybe he was being unfair. Just maybe what his parents had wasn’t how everyone viewed a relationship. He stepped into the room, nodding at the two shorter men and then looked over at his redhead.

“Hi.” For the first time in his life he was tongue-tied. This was very odd for him.

“Hello.” Zeus could smell the apprehension coming off of his mate. How could he give his mate what he wanted while keeping him safe and obedient? That was the twenty thousand dollar question.

“Could I speak with you?”

“Depends, are you going to order me around or actually talk this time?” Jasper stood, facing Zeus with his shoulders squared. “I’m not difficult to get along with, but I won’t be under someone’s thumb.”

Zeus glanced at the other two men, unsure of how to handle this. “Can we take this somewhere more private?”

“Fine, lead the way.” Jasper walked over to him, clasping his hands in front of him and waiting. It was hard to suppress the need to dominate, the drive to tell his mate to do as told, and there wasn’t going to be any discussion about it. That tactic wasn’t working. He had to find balance.

Zeus gave a tight smile to the two men watching the scene and then led Jasper away. He frowned when he spotted his office door ajar. Who the hell had been in there? “Wait right here.” Zeus held his hand up, stopping Jasper from entering behind him.

“What is it?”

He didn’t want to answer that. His mate would only argue that he could look out for himself and now was not the time for it. “Please.”

“Since you put it so nicely.” Jasper leaned against the wall, tapping his fingers on the paneling behind him as Zeus entered. He scanned the room but found nothing out of place. Everyone in the house knew he didn’t like anyone in there when he wasn’t.

“Come on in,” he said after one last sweep with his eyes. He spotted the half empty cup of tea and knew Minsheng had been in here. There was another who didn’t like to obey. He would have a talk with him about being in his office.

“I must say, you look rather hot in those basketball shorts.” Jasper batted his eyes. Zeus was speechless. After the way things had gone, his mate still wanted sex? He would have thought the redhead’s pride

would have been wounded from earlier, leaving him hanging like that in the bedroom.

“Thanks.”

“So, what do you want to talk about, big guy?”

He wasn’t sure. All he knew was that he didn’t like the tension between them. With a nervous twitch beginning under his eye, Zeus leaned against his desk, deciding to take a non-authoritative stance instead of sitting behind it and seeming imposing. He placed his hands on either side of him, gripping the sides of the desk. “How do we make this work?”

Jasper seemed surprised. His lips slightly parted, and his eyes widened a minute amount. “I don’t know.”

Zeus shifted slightly, crossing his ankles as he stared at his stunning mate. “I don’t like to argue, at least not with you. We have to find a way both of us can get what we want without the arguing.”

Jasper pursed his lips in thought. “How about you not treat me like spun glass, and I’ll try to stay out of trouble?”

“How about you do as I say?” Zeus held his hand up to stop any protest. “Within reason, and I’ll try not to treat you like you’re so fragile.”

His mate eyed him suspiciously. “I somehow doubt you will tolerate me going against you.”

It was true. He was basically giving up some of his control and giving some of it to his mate.

When he’d been in the driver’s seat his whole life, it was hard to let someone else behind the wheel, but he had to try. This relationship was the most important thing in his life, and he wanted it to work.

Why the hell did fate give him a strong-willed mate? Didn’t she know how controlling he was? Zeus would try this new way of thinking. It went against his natural inclination to dominate, but for Jasper, he would try.

“Deal.” He stuck his hand out, waiting to see if the redhead would agree or argue further.

Slowly standing, Jasper crossed the room and slid his hand in Zeus's, the need to dominate already rearing its head, but Zeus tamped it down.

"So, can we have sex now?" Jasper smiled up at him.

Chapter Three

Jasper took a deep breath. He wasn't sure what he had just agreed to, but if it stopped the wedge that was between them, he was all for it. His pride had been wounded big time when his mate walked out of the bedroom, making him feel like he'd been slapped.

He chalked it up to nerves and their argument, of course. Getting to know someone and starting over was the scariest shit ever. It helped when you had someone in your corner, but he didn't know anyone here. Jasper was willing to try. All he was asking was that Zeus gave just as much effort.

He shivered when Zeus pulled him into the V of his legs and a large hand traced down his spine. His cock came instantly to life from the touch and months of celibacy. The urge to crawl onto his mate and impaling his ass on Zeus's cock was overwhelming. Jasper whimpered when the Alpha walked him backward, and his legs hit the couch.

"I'm going to take you here," Zeus said in the most dark and deep voice, making the front of Jasper's pants push out and become wet.

"Hell, you could take me anywhere, big guy." He batted his eyes. *Stop that! That's what got you into this mess in the first place, dumb ass.*

Zeus lapped at his lips, pushing his tongue in to ask for entrance. Oh god, this was their first kiss. Jasper opened greedily, sucking the wandering appendage in and groaning at the taste.

His neck was starting to hurt with how far he had to bend it back. Zeus must have read his thoughts. He pulled Jasper up, Jasper wrapping his legs around Zeus's waist.

Oh fuck, it felt like a stealth missile between his mate's legs. Could he handle all of that? He sure as hell was going to try. Jasper pushed his ass down on the tenting cock, his body begging for Zeus to enter him.

Jasper felt his canines descending, the need to be claimed fogging his brain, and the need to be fucked short-circuiting what was left of it. "Please," he begged into Zeus's mouth.

"You made me wait a very long time for you. I should hold out." Zeus chuckled low.

"Then I'll have to take care of this hard-on myself while you watch."

Zeus's nostrils flared, his eyes hooded, and a low growl vibrated through his chest. *Talk about sexy.*

Jasper unwound his legs, slipping down his mate's chest as Zeus watched. He toed his shoes off, shrugged his pants off, kicking them away from him, and then pulled his shirt over his head. "Come and claim me." Jasper smiled as he opened his arms wide.

Zeus was on him in milliseconds, taking Jasper down like a wolf with his prey. Jasper squirmed around, trying to adjust to the heavy weight of his mate lying on him. Dude was heavy as hell.

Jasper ran his hands over his mate's bald head, luxuriating in the feel of skin on bald skin. His head tilted back, his groin on fire for attention, and his mate delivered.

Zeus licked around Jasper's nipples, sucking them in and slightly biting them. The sting radiated down to his toes, which curled in from the magnitude of the sensations washing over him.

Jasper's heart began to race when Zeus stuck two large fingers into his mouth and let the saliva coat them, and then reached down between his legs. He spread them, giving his mate room to play.

"Oh shit," Jasper whimpered when two fingers slid into his clenching hole. He had forgotten how good it felt to be breached. "More."

Zeus kissed his way down Jasper's chest, sliding a third finger in. He jumped, the fullness catching him by surprise. Jasper's knees drew up to his chest, reveling in the feeling of his mate finger-fucking him with such large digits.

Jasper's hands flew out and grabbed for carpet when Zeus leaned down and swallowed his cock. His eyes rolled back, and his hole clamped down on those sausage sized fingers. "Fuck me," he whined.

Zeus sucked tightly all the way up his shaft before letting his cock pop from between his lips. "Turn over."

Jasper scrambled to his hands and knees, watching over his shoulder as Zeus undressed and then went to his desk, extracting a bottle of lube. "Use it much in here?"

"You never know when the urge will hit you."

Jasper left the subject alone, not wanting to know if his mate was by himself when the urge hit or if someone else was helping him along. It was none of his business who Zeus fucked before he came along, but his canines still itched to tear the fucker's throat out.

His mate sniffed the air. "Jealousy?" he asked.

"Your nose is one big mood ring, isn't it?" Jasper had to stop the irritable tone. He was being unfair, and he knew it.

"Don't worry, mate, I've never fucked anyone in this house. It's my sanctuary," Zeus said as he crawled behind Jasper. Petty as it was, Jasper felt better. He didn't want to be claimed in a room where Zeus had taken someone else.

This was a special time, and Jasper was going to make sure it stayed that way.

Jasper's breath hitched when Zeus entered him. Holy, holy, holy shit, the man was going to split him in half. He breathed through the burn, knowing that pleasure was just beyond that.

He pushed his anus muscle out, relieving some of the pressure. Zeus slowly worked his cock in until he was fully seated. "Are you okay?" he tenderly asked Jasper.

Sure, it only felt like he was being torn in half. “Yep.” Jasper gave him a thumbs-up over his shoulder, blowing out, and then he began to rock on his hands and knees. In order for the pain to ease, he had to move.

Oh yeah, he was right. The pain morphed into pleasure, taking him along for the ride.

Zeus slid his right hand under Jasper’s chest, pulling him up with one arm, showing his mate his strength, and Jasper was impressed. Jasper reached behind him, latching his arms around Zeus’s neck and holding on for dear life as his mate fucked him senseless.

Jasper groaned as that thick cock pulled back and then thrust forward, taking him to new heights of pleasure. The hand on his chest heated his skin, making Jasper want to sink into his mate and never come out.

“Holy crap, you know how to use your dick,” Jasper moaned. Zeus just grunted and kept slamming into him. Okay, so he wasn’t a dirty talker, which sucked. “Fuck the toenail polish off of me.” Jasper continued, determined to get Zeus to say *something*.

When his mate only slid his hand up Jasper’s side, kissing his neck, Jasper pulled out the big guns. “Shove that cock so far up in me that my hair lays down flat.”

Zeus stilled. “Are you always this noisy?”

Jasper bit his bottom lip, embarrassed by his mate’s obvious disapproval. It seemed he wasn’t going to be allowed to be who he was even during sex. He shook his head, quieting his noisy mouth as Zeus bent him over and began to kiss him down his spine.

He had no complaints whatsoever at the way Zeus was making love to him. Something just felt like it was missing. Jasper let go of his glum thoughts, losing himself in the feel of his mate’s body in his.

Zeus reached under Jasper’s chest, snaking his arms up until they were wound around Jasper’s shoulders, and then lifted him from the floor. Jasper’s hands shot behind him, wondering what in the hell Zeus was doing.

His mate slung his arm out, knocking everything from his desk, and then put Jasper on all fours, grabbing his hips and thrusting harder into him. He had to bite the inside of his mouth to keep his happy praise to himself.

When Zeus reached around and grabbed Jasper's cock, he knew his mate was close. The action was the only signal he received. No verbal conformation was forthcoming.

Jasper stiffened, feeling the explosion race through him as he came. He damn near bit his bottom lip off from biting it to keep quiet as he came. He tasted copper from the wound he inflicted on his lip from his canines breaking skin.

Zeus roared out behind him, pumping into him with lightning speed. Jasper was being slowly pushed up the desk with Zeus's massive frame slamming into him from behind.

His mate was breathing heavy behind him, his sweat dripping onto Jasper's back. He laid his cheek on the desk, wondering if the person he was would slowly be extinguished.

When Zeus began to pull out, Jasper was confused. "That's it? No ritual words to bind us?" Jasper felt cheated. He had heard his whole life how Timber wolves claiming their mates was very spiritual, but none of that occurred just now. Maybe they weren't mates? No, he felt the pull to be with Zeus. *So what gives?*

"It is different between breeds. We Grey wolves only need to consummate our bond with sex."

Why did that sound so clinical? All of the sudden Jasper wanted to get away, needing time to think this through. He pushed up from the desk, pulling a paperclip from his cheek and tossing it aside as he wiggled around, telling his mate to get the hell off of him, in a polite way.

"Is there something wrong?" Zeus pulled Jasper up, concern etched on his face.

Jasper couldn't do this, not now anyway. "I have to go potty." He threw out the first flimsy excuse he could think of and pulled from Zeus's arms.

Bending over, he grabbed his clothes and quickly dressed. "I'll be right back." He made haste to the door, feeling the need to cry creeping up on him fast. As soon as he was clear of the office, Jasper ran crying to their bedroom.

This couldn't be happening. He was outgoing, outspoken, and loved to have fun and joke around. He was being turned into the crypt he first thought this place to be upon entering it. His love of life felt as though it were slowly being sucked from him.

"Hey, what's wrong?" Avanti called, but Jasper ignored him, running up the stairs and straight to his room.

That was the most detached sex he had ever had. It was like he wasn't even there. Zeus could have been fucking anybody the way he had acted. His mate had gone through the motions of sex, and that was it.

Jasper had always needed verbal approval, to be told how he was making his partner feel. He received none of that with Zeus.

He closed his bedroom door, throwing himself on the bed as he wept. He wanted to go home. This place was too sterile in emotions.

"Jasper?"

Jasper dried his eyes, sitting up as Avanti slowly opened the door. "Yes?"

"I just wanted to see if you were okay." The soldier never entered his room. He stood in the doorway, his face full of pity. At least that's how Jasper saw it, and he didn't like it one bit.

"I'm fine. Please let me be alone."

Avanti nodded, reaching out and grabbing the door knob, closing it with a click. "I hate this stupid place." Jasper punched the pillow under his head. "I want to go home." Fresh tears fell as Jasper cried himself to sleep.

* * * *

“Is he okay?” Taz asked Avanti when he entered the living room. He was quickly changing his mind about the redhead.

“I’m not sure.” Something wasn’t right. He could smell Jasper’s despair as he ran up the steps, then again when he went to check on him.

Was Zeus treating his mate badly? He had only been Alpha for a short while. Avanti and the rest of the soldiers immediately fell in when Zeus won the challenge against Jackson’s psychotic ass, so he wasn’t sure how Zeus would treat a lover. But Jasper was his mate. There shouldn’t be any tears.

“Maybe a day out, exploring the town and what it has to offer would help him,” Taz offered.

Avanti sat on the couch, crossing his legs as he thought about Taz’s suggestion. It might help. He wasn’t sure what was going on, but going into town always put him in a good mood. “I’ll go see if Zeus approves.”

Avanti found his Alpha sitting behind his desk with his face in his hands. What exactly was going on? “Excuse me.”

Zeus’s head shot up, a look of sadness drowning in his eyes. “What?” he asked after clearing his throat.

“I was wondering if it would be okay with you if I took Jasper into town for a little while.”

Zeus shrugged, waving his hand dismissively. “Go ahead.” Zeus turned his back to Avanti, staring at the wall behind him.

Avanti left the office. No use trying to pull whatever was bothering his Alpha out of him. The guy wouldn’t budge.

He found Taz sitting in the living room. “Hey, let’s roll.”

Taz jumped up, following behind Avanti as he went to find Jasper. The guy was still sniffing in his bedroom. “Hey, we’re going into town. Want to tag along?”

“Hell yes, maybe they won’t find me dead somewhere of complete boredom now.” Jasper jumped up, brushed the tears from under his eyes, and smiled at them. “Let’s go.”

* * * *

Jasper felt his spirits lift. Getting out seemed to be the cure. The two soldiers followed behind him as he wandered from one store to the next. There was a candy shop where he bought a pound of chocolate covered raisins and a book store where he purchased a steamy romance novel.

He would need that. He also found a clothing store that had the frilliest shirts that he loved.

Jasper was tired of shopping. He saw a small deli where he could rest his feet while getting a bite to eat. “Come on, fellas, time to eat.”

“About time, I’m starving,” Taz grumbled, holding the door open for Jasper.

“Ah, and here I thought you were having the time of your life.” Jasper laughed as he strolled up to the counter.

“I was planning on going to the grocery store, not participating in manic shopping spree.”

Jasper would have been irked if he hadn’t noticed the smile on Taz’s face.

“You love it, and you know it.” Jasper looked over the selections sitting high above on a menu board behind the counter. There was a lot to choose from. Should he get a deli sandwich or one of those tempting soups? His stomach growled, telling him it didn’t matter and to make his mind up in a damn hurry.

He set his bags down beside him, wondering where someone was. Well, at least he had more time to make up his mind. Just as he decided on a Reuben, a man came from the back and Jasper’s senses went nuts.

Mine!

His head snapped back in surprise. What the fuck was wrong with him?

Taking a step back, he glanced over at the soldiers to his left, seeing if they had caught his reaction. They were staring up at the menu board, but Taz sniffed the air and slowly looked over at him, his brows pulling tightly together. He gave Jasper a look like he was asking him what was wrong.

Jasper just shrugged and faced back to the counter. The young man was staring at Jasper curiously. He could tell the guy was human. Since Zeus told him the businesses were owned by the pack, this must be an employee.

“I’ll have a Reuben sandwich.” Jasper managed to keep his voice steady, but the whole time he was staring at the blond, wondering why his wires were crossing. Zeus was his mate, so why on earth did he feel a pull toward this guy?

He planted his feet firmly onto the tiled floor. The urge to stalk around the counter and claim the young man was tearing at his wits. Why was his life so fucking complicated?

“And you, sir?” The young man turned toward the soldiers, and Jasper wanted to tear their eyes out for taking the guy’s attention away.

“I’ll have the same,” Taz said as he slowly looked back at Jasper, his head cocking to the side. Jasper once again shrugged, glancing around as if everything were just fine. He picked his bags up, running to the nearest table and dropping into a seat.

He tried to still his racing heart, his eyes drifting back behind the counter, staring at the most stunning blue eyes he had ever seen. Jasper dropped his gaze, guilt eating away at him for the lust coursing through him.

“What the hell is going on?” Taz asked when he joined him.

“I don’t know what you are talking about.” Jasper feigned ignorance, praying Taz left the subject alone.

He should have known better.

“You’re so damn horny right now, my fucking cock is hard. What gives?” He growled softly.

“A Reuben always gets me all hot and bothered.” Jasper chuckled nervously as he pulled a napkin from the dispenser sitting on the table and began to tear at it.

“What the hell is going on?” Avanti asked when he brought the tray of food over. He pulled a chair out, taking a seat and staring at Jasper.

“Nothing.” Fuck, he needed to get out of here. He forced his eyes to settle on the tray although they were pulling at his head to turn and look for the human.

Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck. This was *so* not good.

He sat there eating his food, stabbing his fries into the little paper cup of ketchup and forcing his eyes with all his might not to look up and find his mate.

Mate?

Jasper excused himself and ran to the bathroom, locking the door as he let out a long exhale. “What the hell is going on?” He washed his face at the sink, dried it, and then looked at his reflection in the mirror.

“You’re a fruitcake, you know that?” he asked his mirror image angrily. “You have a mate. Stop being so fucking greedy.” Jasper placed his hands on the sink and lowered his head.

This couldn’t be happening. He may want to deny it, but every fiber in him told him that the man out there was his mate.

How? How could he have two mates? Was it just a hormonal imbalance? Well, he would stop at the pharmacy to find something to cure that.

There was *no way* he had two mates.

Pushing away from the sink, Jasper unlocked the door and came face-to-face with the human. He stood there, unsure how to handle this.

“Hi.” The guy smiled shyly at him.

Oh hell, wasn't he adorable? *No, he is not adorable, hands off!*

"Ah, hi." The guy sidestepped Jasper, blushing as he went into the men's room. Jasper had to stop his hand from pushing the door open and following behind him.

I want, his inner voice whined.

Well, too damn bad.

Jasper felt like he had the good angel on one shoulder and the devil on the other. Which one to listen to?

Taking a moment to settle his nerves, Jasper found his way back to their table. "Are you ready to go?" If he stayed here much longer, he wouldn't be able to control the pull.

He could just see it now, him trying to fuck the little human while Avanti and Taz tried to beat him down. Although it was a funny image, it wasn't a funny situation.

"But you haven't eaten." Avanti pointed to his barely touched food. Jasper took a seat, feeling his nerves jump in his legs, making them bounce manically.

He shoved half the sandwich to the back of his throat, chewing with his mouth hanging open from the large amount of food stuffed in it. He shoved the straw from his drink into the gob of food, trying to get it to go down.

"That's wicked. I've never seen someone eat like that before." Taz laughed.

Jasper couldn't reply. Hell, he could barely breathe. He walked over to the trash can and spit the ball of food out, wiping his mouth with a napkin. Never in his life had he made a pig of himself, but desperate times called for desperate measures.

"I'm done. Can we go now?" Jasper held his head firm. It was pulling to turn and find the man who *wasn't* his mate.

Picking up his bags, Jasper gave in, looking over his shoulder.

The human was leaning on the glass counter, his arms resting as he stared at Jasper. There was a longing in his eyes that ate at Jasper.

The little human must feel the pull, and Jasper desperately wanted to go to him and ease that longing.

He didn't want to leave, but staying here wasn't an option.

Smiling weakly at the human, he walked out.

Chapter Four

Zeus met his mate at the door, taking his bags from his hands. “How did your day out go?” He knew he fucked up, treating Jasper coldly as he bonded with him. The whole time his mate was gone, Zeus had been cursing his stupidity.

His mate’s eyes smiled at him as he grinned. “Fine, I like your town. There’s a lot more to do here.”

“I’m glad. I drew you some bath water if you want to soak.” He ignored Taz and Avanti’s stunned looks. This was about Jasper and making up for the way he had treated his mate. He may be a controlling bastard, but he wasn’t a prick.

Mostly.

“That sounds wonderful, thank you.” Jasper kissed his cheek and then climbed the stairs.

“Shut up,” he mumbled at his soldiers as he followed behind his mate. So he was trying a different approach, big fucking deal.

Even he could admit when he was wrong.

He set the bags on the floor just inside the door, walking up behind his redhead and circling his arms around him.

God, was he short.

“Do you need help getting undressed?” he crooned in Jasper’s ear.

“If that’s what you want.” Jasper kicked his shoes off, unbuttoning his shirt. Zeus turned him around, batting his hands away.

He wanted to unwrap his sexy man.

His fingers shook as he descended down, pushing the buttons through the eyelets. He wanted to make up for earlier, show his mate

that he wasn't a callous dick. He pulled the shirt free, tossing it aside, and then picked Jasper up by his sides, gently laying him on his back.

Zeus unsnapped the pants, pulling them off as well. His mate's cock slapped his lower belly, the fire red hair a shrine that showed off Jasper's prize. He grabbed the lube, pushing Jasper's legs back and breaching him with three fingers.

"Easy, big guy, I may not be a virgin, but your fingers are the size of rolling pins."

Zeus eased one finger out. "I'm sorry." That was the first time he had ever said that. He tasted it in his mouth. It wasn't as bitter as he thought it would be, not with Jasper.

"It's okay. Just go easy on me, please."

Zeus nodded, scissoring his fingers until Jasper was good and stretched. Only then did he slide the third finger back in. Once a fourth finger fit, he knew his mate was ready.

He had plans for his mate. Zeus picked Jasper up, taking him over to the dresser. "Hold on."

Jasper laid his hands on the top while Zeus raised his mate up and began to slurp at his hole.

"Oh hell, fuck, shit, damn. Sorry, I'll keep quiet."

Was that part of the reason his mate had fled earlier? Damn, Zeus really was an ass. "Don't, I want to hear how I make you feel."

"But—"

He cut him off. "No, talk to me." Zeus moved his shoulders around until Jasper's legs were over them. This wasn't an easy position, having his mate belly-down, but the view was outstanding. He stiffened his tongue, delving back into the muscled pleasure. Zeus licked, sucked, lapped, and nipped at his mate's starburst.

"Yeah, keep doing that. Make me come on your toes," Jasper begged.

Zeus had to stifle a laugh. Jasper in the throes of passion was humorous. He licked his way down to Jasper's balls, sucking in the

drawn up orbs. His tongue traced each ridge, giving them special attention.

“Fuck me. Stop teasing me.”

Zeus reluctantly released his nuts, kissing his puckered hole before lowering Jasper down to cock level. He was never one for talking during sex, but if that’s what his mate wanted. “Are you ready to be fucked?”

“Shove that missile in my ass, and pound me unconscious.”

This time Zeus did laugh. Jasper chuckled along with him. “You can’t hold anything I say while having sex against me.”

“I won’t.” Zeus used his thumbs to separate the two beautiful mounds, staring in awe at the puckered prize.

“Stop ogling and get on with it.” Jasper pushed back, trying to move Zeus along.

He lined his cock up, sliding into paradise. Watching his mate’s hole swallow him was an amazing sight. It accepted his girth, begging for more.

Zeus pulled back and then slammed back in, Jasper’s legs twisting around his waist. He grinned when Jasper’s hands hit the wall and then proceeded to climb up.

“Where are you going?”

“Up the wall, can’t you tell?” Jasper’s fingernails dug into plaster, his head falling back as he moaned.

Zeus glanced down again, watching his cock run in and out at an incredible speed. He hissed when he felt his balls drawing up, his climax close. “Play with yourself. I’m close.” He was getting pretty good at this talking thing.

“Oh hell, I’m about to come just from you telling me that.” Jasper dropped back down to the dresser, palming his erection and moving his arm frantically. Zeus leaned sideways, trying his best to get a better view as he sawed in and out of his mate. If he didn’t have to hold Jasper up, he would be doing it for him.

“Here I come,” Zeus shouted, stiffening and then exploding, his feet planted firmly as he rocketed into Jasper’s tight ass.

“Me, too.” Jasper cried out, his arm pumping furiously as his head dropped onto the dresser. “Oh hell’s bells.”

Zeus pulled his mate up and carried him into the bathroom. “Water might be cold now.” He tested it with his hand and then turned the hot water on. “Give it a minute.”

“Just let me snuggle, and I’ll be fine.”

Zeus liked the way things were going. Maybe he had been wrong all along in assuming he could dominate and boss his redhead around. It seemed to be kindness that was winning him over. His hand skimmed up and down his mate’s back as he leaned over and shut the water off. He stepped in, lowering them both.

“Man that feels good,” Jasper moaned.

Zeus held him close, cupping water into his hand and letting it pour over his mate’s skin. The glistening droplets ran down creamy smooth skin, the vanilla texture sparkled with moisture. He stared at his own chocolate brown skin, amazed at what a contrast the two made.

“You’re beautiful.” It slipped out before Zeus even thought about it.

“You’re just saying that because we fucked like bunnies,” Jasper mumbled into his chest.

Zeus ran his hands over Jasper’s bright red hair, twisting the strands between his fingers as his mate dozed off.

There was something different about Jasper since he’d gotten home. He smelled of confusion and guilt. Maybe he felt just as bad about them arguing.

It was a silly argument once Zeus thought about it. He really didn’t have to display his dominance. Just show his mate he could take care of him and things would fall into place.

For the first time in his life, he really did feel happy. Things felt like they were settling into place and his relationship with his mate

would work out just fine. Zeus ran his fingers down Jasper's lithe arm, smiling at the way his mate snuggled into him at his touch.

With the water getting cold, Zeus rose, carrying Jasper into the bedroom, where he laid him on the bed and pulled the covers over him, glad he had made up for his earlier claiming. It had been a fun sex session, his first in verbal communication during sex, and he found it hot as hell.

He dressed, letting the door close quietly behind him as he went to find something to eat.

* * * *

Jasper lay there with his eyes closed, missing his mate's touch already. He turned over once he heard the door close. How could he have another mate? Zeus had just shown him that things could be good between them, so why would fate do such a thing?

Whether he wanted to or not, he thought of the human back at Harold's Deli. He was shorter than Jasper, looked to be in his early twenties with thick blond hair messed up all over his head to give him that just-fucked look. And it looked sexy on him with those big blue eyes that had stared at Jasper so innocently.

He had wanted to tell Zeus about it but didn't know how. *Oh by the way, I have another mate.* Yeah, that would go over as well as a boil on the ass. He thought his life had gotten complicated the last few months with his best friend back at the Brac pack. This was way more complicated. This involved his mate on a more personal level.

Jasper slung the blanket back, wishing he had an easy solution. He winced when his ass protested getting up and moving around. Zeus had a humungous cock, and his ass was letting him know it now.

"Damn Hercules dick. I'm gonna need a triple X butt plug if he's going to be fucking me up the wall." Jasper grinned and grabbed some clothes to put on. He pushed aside his worries about the man at Harold's Deli and focused on his relationship with Zeus.

He knew to be happy, he would have to try a little harder, not be so quick to take offense and understand his mate's point of view. He didn't want to lose his identity, but he also didn't want to lose his mate.

"There you are." Jasper smiled when he found Zeus wolfing down a plate of roast beef and baby potatoes. "Looks good." Jasper pulled at Zeus's shoulder, pulling him down for a kiss filled with meat and potatoes. "Tastes good, too." He chuckled.

Zeus swallowed his mouthful. "I thought you were sleeping, or I would have brought you some."

"That's okay, I can get it." Jasper rummaged through the refrigerator until he found the leftovers. "Who cooks here?"

"Everyone takes turns. Memphis made this. He's pretty good."

Jasper smiled. "I'm a pretty good cook myself. I can make you dinner and show you." It was a very nice kitchen. Marble countertops with a stand-alone stove and a range top on the counter of the island. There was an oven built into a brick wall on one side of the kitchen, and the stand-alone had a Dutch oven as well. There was plenty of surface space to work on, and it seemed the kitchen had all the latest appliances a guy could want to cook with.

"I'd like that," Zeus said as he finished his plate. "What are you going to make?" He walked over to the sink, rinsing his plate and storing it in the dishwasher.

"What do you like?" Jasper leaned against the island, checking his mate out fully. The guy was as tall as the heavens, big shiny bald head, and handsome as all get out. Muscles were lying on top of muscles, and he was wearing those shorts again that hung loosely to his knees. The white T-shirt was a contrast to his chocolate brown skin.

Yummy.

Jasper checked out his athletic shoes. What were they, a size sixteen? It had to be true what they said about a man's shoe size because Zeus sported a mega long and thick cock, lucky Jasper.

He chuckled when he saw Zeus's nostrils flare. He must be scenting Jasper's lust because Zeus crossed the kitchen in a few strides and had Jasper up on the counter in a heartbeat.

Jasper wrapped his long, slim legs around Zeus's waist, grinding his cock into the white T-shirt. His hole clenched to be filled by his warrior's behemoth cock again.

"Fuck me," Jasper whispered into Zeus's neck as he kissed and licked his way from one ear to the other. Shivers ran through him when his mate pulled Jasper closer, running his large hands down Jasper's back and cupping his butt. Zeus's fingers began to knead his flesh, making his cock jump and leak.

Zeus tilted his head back, allowing Jasper to suckle at his skin. Jasper's hands tormented his mate, reaching down to cup a very nice and bubbled ass.

His fingers began their own kneading, pushing Zeus's cock closer to his ass. Jasper opened when Zeus plunged his tongue between his lips, dominating the kiss. Jasper gave himself to Zeus, no longer concerned at the moment about fighting for his independence. Right here and now, he was whatever Zeus wanted him to be.

Jasper moaned into his mate's mouth, his ass tilting up to gain more attention from Zeus's probing cock. Thank goodness he wore a light pair of capris. Jasper could feel every poke and prod from his mate's cock at his hole.

"Take my pants off," Jasper whimpered and begged when Zeus pulled from the kiss. Zeus nipped at his chin and pulled at his waist band, Jasper lifting to release the confines of his pants. His mate only took them to his thighs, enough to expose his waiting hole.

Zeus reached into his shorts, pulling his cock free and moving Jasper closer until he was pressed against the head. "Do it," Jasper dared him.

Zeus growled and pushed in. There was pain with the dry fuck, but Jasper thought past that to the blinding pleasure that accompanied

it. He leaned against the cupboard, giving Zeus as much of his ass as he possibly could in this position.

His mate pulled one leg free of Jasper's pants and then pulled him off the counter. Jasper clung to him as Zeus stood at the counter and plunged into him.

Jasper's nails dug into flesh as Zeus rocked his hips, sending Jasper shooting to the edge. His cock and balls rubbed into the nest of hairs at his mate's groin, giving him the friction he needed to send waves of pleasure throughout his body.

Jasper's legs tightened around Zeus as his climax grew nearer. "Make me come."

Zeus pulled Jasper closer, kissing his neck and face as he rocketed into him. "You feel so good," Zeus praised as he held onto Jasper and fucked him. "Mine."

Jasper fought the images in his head of the moment in the deli when that exact word had spilled from his mind. He pushed it away, refusing to allow it to invade his time with his mate.

"Yours." Jasper cemented their position with one another as Zeus took him higher. His body tensed. His impending orgasm was only seconds away. "I'm there," he cried out as he came all over Zeus's clean white tee.

Zeus tripled his thrusts, jarring Jasper up and down as he pistoned into him. "Jasper!" Zeus cried out as he filled Jasper's hole with his seed. Zeus trembled and stepped back, shaking his head and then pulling Jasper close, sealing him in muscled arms and making him feel safe and warm.

Zeus kissed his neck and then inhaled, his arms tightening a little more. Jasper held on for dear life, afraid of what was happening and fearful to tell Zeus what was taking place. He didn't want to lose this.

Jasper groaned when Zeus slid free, setting him on his feet. He readjusted his shorts, and then helped Jasper with his pants. He smiled down at him, and Jasper could see how his eyes crinkled with the

action, his eyes sparkling with merriment. “Sex in the kitchen.” He chuckled.

“Hell, sex anywhere you want it.” Jasper grinned widely, his cheeks hurting from the happiness flowing through him. “I’ll need to go to the store for the items I’ll need for dinner.”

“I’ll take you.” Zeus cupped Jasper’s face, and he became lost once again in those big brown eyes of his mate’s. Jasper leaned in, wanting to lick Zeus from head to toe even though he had just experienced an explosive orgasm. The man set his blood on fire.

“Let me shower and then we can go.” Jasper grinned again at his mate before stepping away.

“I need one, too.”

“No you don’t. If you step into that shower, we’ll never get out of here.”

Zeus laughed and Jasper’s heart melted. “Is that such a bad thing?”

No, it wasn’t, but Jasper really wanted to show off his culinary skills and give his mate a dinner he could brag about to his soldiers. It was silly, but Jasper was determined to be accepted here.

* * * *

Zeus smiled down at his mate, enjoying the day as they shopped. He laughed when Jasper held up a zucchini and told him that his cock was bigger than that. Not really, but his ego enjoyed his mate’s compliments.

He felt like a changed man since letting the need to dominate go, no longer worried his mate would run all over him. He walked slowly as Jasper pushed the shopping cart, tossing in the things he would need to make what he had referred to as “Down-home cooking.” His mate told him he was born in the Deep South, Dixieland, and he was going to prepare one of his favorite meals.

Zeus's mouth watered thinking of the deep fried chicken, homemade macaroni and cheese, and even the greens and cornbread his mate promised him.

His favorite was the homemade macaroni and cheese. Although the calories were through the roof, he would ask Jasper to make two pans, knowing he was going to devour one just by himself.

"My mama taught me how to cook. Most people don't know I'm from the south. I lost my accent eons ago, but I still love to cook." Zeus listened as Jasper talked. He was finding out some fascinating insight about his redhead.

The more Jasper revealed, the more Zeus was beginning to understand him. He had been raised with five sisters and ten brothers, barely getting the attention a child needed growing up, but Jasper found a way around that. He had spent countless hours in the kitchen with his mother just to have his time with her.

When his father found out Jasper was gay, all hell broke loose. He had kicked his son out, telling him never to come back. All of his siblings except his sister Jojo had shunned him, but he confessed to not keeping in touch with her.

It must have been the most painful experience to have his entire family turn their backs on him for a sexual preference he couldn't control. Zeus wanted to pull Jasper into his arms and comfort him, but he didn't, allowing his mate to chatter away instead.

"My best friend Cody had taken me in and helped me through the roughest part of my life. We found Maverick's pack, which was still being formed back then, and joined."

Zeus stopped walking. "Was he the one who pulled you away from me when we first met?"

Jasper bit his bottom lip and nodded.

Zeus struggled with his feelings. He was grateful Cody had helped his mate when Jasper had no one, but the surge of jealousy reared its ugly head. "Did you sleep with him?"

Again Jasper nodded, refusing to look Zeus's way.

“Even after I found you?” His temper was climbing, his hands fisted at his sides. If Jasper knowingly slept with another man while having the knowledge that his mate waited for him, he was going to...*fuck!*

“*No!* I would never have done that. Please believe me.” Jasper let go of the cart and grabbed onto Zeus’s arms. “I swear I didn’t.”

Zeus took a few deep breaths, remembering that they were in a public place.

He nodded, still not having his emotions under control. Jasper hugged him tightly, and Zeus calmed. He petted his mate’s back, telling his mind that what had gone on between the two Timber wolves was the past. “Come on, we need to finish up if you’re going to get dinner ready in time.”

“Are you mad at me?”

Zeus examined his feelings closely. “No, I just don’t like to think of you with another man.”

His mate stiffened and pulled away. Zeus let it go. He knew he was being a caveman, but he was being honest with his redhead.

He helped Jasper unload their cart onto the belt and paid for the food, walking out to the lot and placing all the bags into the back of his truck.

“I think I need a snack before dinner.” Zeus rubbed his belly.

“A snack? You just wolfed down a whole dinner plate at home,” Jasper teased.

He spotted Harold’s Deli across the street, and his stomach growled in approval. “Come on, let’s grab a sandwich before dinner.”

Jasper’s eyes darted from the deli to him, his eyes widening and the smell of fear radiating off of him. Zeus couldn’t understand his mate’s reaction. He pushed it aside as he grabbed Jasper’s hand.

They crossed the street, and Zeus held the door open as Jasper walked in. The aroma hit him as soon as he entered. Fresh baked breads and mouth-watering meats wafted by him.

Zeus walked to the counter as a young human male came from the back. Zeus's head cocked to the side, his eyes hooded, and his brain fogged.

“Mine!”

Chapter Five

Zeus took a step back, his eyes darting from the human to Jasper. How could he have openly lusted for the human with his very own mate standing next to him? Shame and guilt washed over him.

Jasper stood there with his mouth hanging open, staring at Zeus in shock. “Jasper.” Zeus reached for his mate, but Jasper shook his head and took a step back. How had he fucked up so badly when they were just now getting along, bonding, so to speak?

Against his will, his eyes wandered back over to the human, who was staring at him and smiling shyly. Zeus’s heart beat out of control, and he couldn’t figure out for the life of him what had just happened here.

“You feel it, too?”

Zeus’s head snapped to his mate, his brain trying to process what Jasper had just said. Too? Jasper felt it? “What is it?”

“I—I don’t know. It happened to me when I came here earlier.” Jasper glanced over at the blond and then back at Zeus, a puzzled look on his face.

“What’s your name?” he asked the man behind the counter.

The guy blushed, staring between the two wolves. “Toby.”

Zeus would have remembered this guy. He’d been in here a few times since taking over as Alpha. He must be new to town, or to Harold’s Deli.

“We’ll be right back, Toby.” Zeus grabbed Jasper, who seemed to be in a daze, and led him outside. There had to be a reason behind this. “You felt the pull with this guy?”

“Don’t even try to sound offended, buster. You just sexually harassed the guy with your eyes.” Jasper pointed up at him, his lips thinned, and his eyebrows pulled together. “If you think you can put all this on me, you can eat my balls.”

Zeus growled. “Did you feel the pull or not?”

“I did. Does this mean we have another mate? I’m not sure my libido can keep up with two.” Jasper laughed.

“Liar.” Zeus scrubbed his chin, thinking about Jasper and Toby in his bed. His cock became hard at the image.

“So what do we do? Invite him to eat fried chicken and then dine on him for dessert?”

“He’s human. I don’t think the whole mate thing should be sprung on him right away.” Zeus wanted to dine on both of them. He must have done something right in his former life to get two mates.

“Horndog. I can see your cock getting hard.” Jasper flicked his cock with his fingers.

Zeus studied his squirrely Timber wolf. “You’re not mad?”

“Hell no, have you seen how he looks? I’m getting some of that. I’ll give you the leftovers, if there are any.” Jasper giggled and jumped out of the way as Zeus tried to swat at him.

* * * *

Toby stared out of the big glass window at the two guys laughing on the sidewalk. What was it about them that had his gut in a knot?

He studied the massive and tall brown-skinned man, his body shivering at the thought of being fucked by him.

His eyes wandered over to the slim redhead, and he wondered if his pubic hairs were red as well, or was that a dye job?

He was willing to find out. Shaking his head, he tried to clear the lust fog. The two were obviously a couple. Had he lost his ever-loving mind? There was no way he was going to come between them. He wasn’t a home-wrecker.

His heart tripled its beat when the two wandered back in. Wiping the glass counter down, he pretended to ignore them, fighting the urge to glance up.

What puzzled him further was the fact that he was attracted to these two large men. Toby preferred men his own size, short and slim, not a big teddy bear and an obvious flame.

Toby had thought he narrowly escaped trouble when he fled the last town he had lived in, Robert hot on his heels after finding out Toby had slept with his boyfriend. It wasn't his fault. Gregg had never told him about Robert. How was he supposed to know the man was cheating on his partner?

Robert had gone nuts, making threatening phone calls and tracking Toby's every move until he couldn't take it anymore and ran. The man was a few crayons short of a full box, and Toby wasn't sticking around to find out what he intended to do with those threats.

Now here was another couple, both openly gawking at him. What the hell was he going to do?

"I'm Zeus, and this is Jasper," the large man introduced them.

"I'm Toby." Toby mentally smacked his forehead. *You said that already, retard.*

"Isn't he adorable?" the redhead cooed at him.

Toby took a step back. If they thought he was going to participate in a ménage, they had another thing coming. That wasn't his cup of tea, and they weren't going to persuade him otherwise.

"Don't mind Jasper. He's a little off." Zeus chuckled.

"I'll give you off, you big lug." Jasper smacked Zeus's chest.

Toby took all of this in, wondering when reality was going to come crashing back on him. "I, uh, gotta get back to work. Is there something you two wanted?"

"You, on a platter, and naked." Jasper laughed.

Toby could feel his entire face heat up. His eyes shot to Zeus, wondering why he was allowing his partner to openly flirt with him. He was being taken out of his comfort zone by these two, never

before having more than one man interested in him. It was a strange feeling.

"I'll have a grilled chicken on rye." Zeus pulled Jasper into his arms as he ordered. Toby envied that, to be so openly claimed. When he heard of Pride Pack Valley, he had fled there, the Internet boasting of its large town yet friendly people and a homey atmosphere. It had sounded perfect at the time. He wasn't so sure now. He liked it here and didn't want to have to run again.

Toby ran his hand through his disheveled hair. No matter how he groomed it, his hair had always had a mind of its own. Trying to appear nonplussed was becoming difficult with the way Jasper was staring at him with want in his eyes.

He made Zeus's sandwich and wrapped it in deli paper with the store's logo on it. When he placed it on the counter, Zeus's hand touched his, and a jolt of heat shot up his arm, giving him an instant erection. Toby yanked his hand back, staring down at the counter in embarrassment.

"Why don't you come have dinner with us?" Zeus asked in a soothing tone. Toby's resolve to not be a part of this was crumbling at the deep timbre of the man's voice. He could see now that saying no was going to be an inner battle.

"I can't. I have to do things after work." *Do things? Really? Like what? Clean the scum out of the bathtub from the last resident? Maybe unpack empty boxes?* It didn't matter. Toby needed to give any excuse he could to stay away from the dual temptation standing right in front of him.

"It'll be fun, and I promise not to make dessert out of you," Jasper pleaded.

Toby shook his head at the counter. "I can't."

He could hear the pout in the redhead's voice. "Fine, but we aren't giving up."

Toby nodded at his hands that were wiping once again. The heat in his body shot up a notch when large fingers came into his line of

sight and stilled his hand. The same fingers curled under his chin and lifted his head up to look at the most amazing chocolate eyes he had ever seen. Toby's breath froze when Zeus closed the distance and kissed him right in front of Jasper.

"I'll be back," he warned against Toby's lips. Toby leaned in, losing his mind and kissing Zeus. The large man cupped his face, almost pulling him over the counter as he devoured Toby's mouth. Wow, the guy knew how to kiss.

"That is so fucking hot," Jasper panted.

The sound of the other man's voice brought Toby's mind back from the bliss it was drowning in. He pulled back, licking his lips and blushing. Zeus gave him a quick peck before standing straight. "I'll be back for you."

"I want one." Jasper pulled Toby over the counter, tossing him on his back and smashing their lips together. Toby wanted to protest. This was way beyond bizarre, but his mind went blank as Jasper tried to suck his tongue out of his throat. When the redhead pulled back, smiling down at him, Toby forgot where he was and what planet he was on.

"Now that was fucking hot." Jasper winked at him.

"Come on, babe. Give him time."

Toby looked up at Zeus, thankful Zeus was taking Jasper and leaving, sad because he didn't want them to go. How fucked up was that?

Zeus paid for his food and picked the sandwich up, running a knuckle down the side of Toby's jaw. "I'm not letting you go."

He watched upside down as the pair left the shop, wondering how the hell he kept getting himself into these situations.

* * * *

"You know, I thought I would be eye-gouging jealous when you kissed him," Jasper commented as he climbed into the passenger side.

“And were you?” Zeus asked, starting the truck and backing out of the parking spot.

“Funny thing is, I wasn’t. I wanted to fuck him on the counter as you kissed him.” Jasper had never participated in a ménage and never thought he would.

The word felt dirty to him, like it was only a swinging sex party, and this wasn’t.

Toby was the third mate, and he wanted him badly. His eyes found the store his mate was in, watching Toby stand at the door, staring at their retreating truck. Jasper wanted to jump out and run after the human but stayed buckled in his seat.

“Has this ever happened with the Grey wolves? Because it hasn’t with any Timber wolf that I’ve heard of.”

Zeus glanced over at him and then back at the road. “I’ve heard of it. There was a threesome couple that lived in the pack I grew up in, but it was a woman and two men.”

“So we’re not freaks after all?” Jasper chewed on the idea of bringing Toby into their relationship. He wasn’t against the idea. Hell, he wanted to tell Zeus to turn around and get their little man.

“No, fate decided this. Who are we to deny it?”

“How do you feel about it?” He had been so caught up in his own feeling that he hadn’t even considered what this might be doing to his mate.

“I’m okay with it. You?”

Jasper laughed. “Don’t be afraid to admit you want to fuck him into the dashboard. It’s okay with me.” Oddly enough, it was. That feeling of something missing was gone. Had his body known that a third mate was out there?

He grinned widely at the blush creeping up Zeus’s neck. “Okay, I’ll admit I want him.”

Boy, this man had transformed at lightning speed. What happened to the man from this morning that demanded total submission? He

was glad that man was gone, but wondered why the sudden change of heart. “You were all caveman this morning. What happened?”

Zeus shot a look at Jasper. “I didn’t like what was happening between us and wanted it fixed.”

“Well, I’m glad. I like this new you. I promise not to go chasing after trouble and will try my hardest to not embarrass you in front of your soldiers.”

“Thanks.”

Jasper stared out of the truck window, wondering what Toby was doing and where he lived. They knew nothing about the guy. Speaking of, he knew hardly anything about Zeus. “Where did you grow up?” Jasper looked over at his mate.

“Ohio.”

Jasper cringed at his misfortune.

“In a town not too far from Columbus, it was nice. The pack was pretty large, and my family loved the winters. I hate the cold,” Zeus commented.

“Did they accept that you were gay?”

Zeus laughed. “Look at my size. Do you think anyone was bold enough to confront me if they didn’t?”

“Guess not.” He wished that were true for him. Being kicked out of his own pack, and by his own family, was the cruelest thing Jasper had ever experienced.

They talked of Zeus’s pack, his time as a cub, and why he’d left. Jasper felt better when they pulled into the drive. He felt closer to his mate knowing some of his background. They had many more years together and time to get to know one another, but Jasper was eager to find out all he could.

Zeus carried the bags into the kitchen, setting them down on the countertop.

“Hey, what’s all this?” a soldier asked as he walked into the kitchen. Jasper wanted to finish the conversation but shelved it for later.

“Jasper, this is Memphis.” Zeus nodded at the soldier as he unloaded the bags.

“So, you’re my competition?” Jasper eyed the wolf. He was pretty damn tall, with nice black locks hanging to his shoulders. He had a dark and dangerous look to him. But, being who he was, he didn’t give a shit.

“No competition, you can have Zeus.” Memphis chuckled.

“I meant cooking, smartass.” Jasper grabbed a few pots and pans and began to prepare dinner.

“Oh that. I just fool around in the kitchen, nothing special.” Memphis crossed his arms over his chest and leaned a hip against the counter. “What are you cooking?”

Jasper rattled off his choice of menu, Memphis’s eyes growing. “Are you cooking for more than just the two of you?”

He grinned. Maybe they would appreciate his skills. “I don’t know. Ask the hungry Alpha if he’ll share.” Jasper searched the cupboards until he found the disinfectant wipes underneath and pulled a few clothes free. He blushed at Zeus as he wiped down the spot they had gotten funky on earlier. Tossing the towels into the trash, Jasper washed his hands and began to cook dinner.

* * * *

Jasper hummed while taking a shower. After a big successful dinner and a glorious night of thank-yous from his mate, he was off to check on Toby.

Zeus was ticked that he couldn’t go with Jasper. Alpha Maverick and Prince Christian were on their way for a meeting, and his mate couldn’t get out of it. He had tried.

Jasper dressed and met Torem by the front door.

“Lucky me, I get to cart you around all day,” Torem complained, but Jasper ignored him. He had a mate to convince that they were destined to be together. He didn’t have time for Torem’s bellyaching.

“What, no prissy comeback?”

“You know what, Remi?”

“Who?”

Jasper blew his breath out. “He was a warrior in my old pack that had something smart to say about everything. You remind me of him.”

“Again, lucky me.”

Jasper flipped the Beta off and climbed into the truck. He buckled in and braced himself for a sarcastic ride, but Torem stayed quiet. *About time something went right.*

When they pulled in front of Harold’s Deli, Jasper was opening the door before Torem had the truck parked.

“Slow down. I don’t want Zeus tearing my throat out because you have a hunkering for a damn sandwich.”

Torem’s complaint didn’t even show up on his give-a-fuck radar. He was too busy searching out his mate. He rushed into the shop, seeing the blond hair behind the counter with his back to him. Jasper bit back a giggle and crept around the counter, sneaking up behind his mate and grabbing him around the waist. “Gotcha.”

Toby squealed and dropped the shavings of meat he had been holding, the meat toppling to the floor. “Holy shit, you scared the crap out of me.”

Jasper threw his head back and laughed, enjoying the sight of the pinked cheeks on his mate’s face. “Did I now?” He pulled Toby closer, inhaling his clean scent. “How about a little kiss?”

“W–Where’s Zeus?”

Jasper pouted. “You only want him?”

“No, I don’t think you should be trying to make a move on me when your partner isn’t here. I mean, you shouldn’t be trying to make a move on me at all.” Toby squirmed, but Jasper wasn’t going to let his little mate get away.

“It’s not what you think, Toby. We’re not a swinging couple looking for a third to play around with. It’s more serious and deeper

than that.” Jasper ran his fingertips down Toby’s face, leaning in to steal a kiss. “Mmm, you taste good.”

“J–Jasper,” Toby moaned, clutching the front of his shirt.

“Right here, baby.” Jasper backed him into the wall, pressing his body into the human. He and Zeus had thought it best that they take him separately at first. The way Toby had acted the previous day had made them think he would freak out if they tried to come at him at the same time.

Jasper inserted his leg between Toby’s, pushing it into the little human’s groin. He could feel how hard Toby was getting and could hear the shallow breathing from his mate.

He was turned on, good.

“Where’s the owner?” Jasper pushed his leg higher, lifting Toby’s feet from the floor. His mate had no choice but to straddle him now.

“He’s not here.”

Jasper grabbed Toby’s wrists, pinning them to the wall, and closing the distance. “Good, then we don’t have to worry about him.”

Zeus had already spoken to Harold, the owner of the deli and a pack member, asking him to stay home today. Harold had agreed without question. Now all Jasper had to do was get his mate to the back. He had locked the door on his way in and turned the sign to CLOSED.

“I have to get things ready.”

“Don’t worry about anything, just focus on me.” Jasper held Toby around his waist and walked backward, praying he was heading to an office and not the kitchen. It didn’t matter. He’d take him there, too.

“Jasper.” Toby moaned his name again. Jasper could feel his canines trying to emerge. He had to fight it, not wanting to scare the hell out of his human.

“I won’t bite, I promise.” He could see the uncertainty on Toby’s face and wanted to replace it with passion.

Jasper kicked the office door closed, laying his mate out on the desk. Fuck, he wished Zeus was here for this, but he understood the Alpha's reasoning.

Jasper saw the need in Toby's eyes. His mate wanted, but didn't know what to do about it. He would fix that.

Jasper unsnapped Toby's jeans, pulling them apart and snaking his hand into Toby's shorts, pulling his beautiful cock free. It was moist and glistening with pre-cum. Jasper growled and bent over, sucking his mate's cock into his mouth.

Toby whimpered and grabbed Jasper's hair, his hips hitching higher, shoving his cock further down Jasper's throat.

"What in the fuck is going on in here!" Torem roared from the doorway.

Chapter Six

Toby tried to get up, but Jasper had crawled onto the desk and crouched over him, snarling and growling. “*Mine.*”

“Jasper, you have five seconds to get off of him before I force you. How the hell could you do this to Zeus? I knew you were nothing but trouble the moment I laid eyes on you, you fucking cheating bastard.” The guy moved closer, and Toby almost had a heart attack.

He lay on the desk, his cock hanging out as he watched Jasper’s teeth grow. What the hell was going on here? He shoved at the redhead, but Jasper wouldn’t budge.

“You don’t have a fucking clue what’s going on, Torem, so just leave,” Jasper said darkly, his voice dripping with venom. Toby crooked his neck, looking up at an extremely pissed off man standing a few feet away.

“I can see what’s going on, and you won’t get away with it.” Torem advanced, and Toby shrank back. This was not what he needed right now. He was falling back in time to a place where he didn’t want to be. Images of Robert standing in the doorway yelling and spitting out harsh threats at him and Gregg, this felt like *déjà vu*, and he didn’t like it.

“Come any closer, and I’ll fight you to the death, Torem,” Jasper threatened. Toby quickly stuffed his junk back in his pants and then curled up into a ball underneath Jasper.

Robert had been pissed and acting as though he was going to do something physical but never came near Toby. This guy Torem, he had the look of a madman. Was he another interest of the couples?

“Don’t fucking threaten me.” Torem’s nostrils flared, and his jaw clenched as he pulled his cell phone out. Toby looked back up at Jasper, seeing that his teeth were still long and frightening. Jasper never took his eyes off Torem, but he reached a hand down and petted Toby’s hair, almost in a gesture saying he was safe and protected.

“Zeus, I need you down at the deli before I do something that will make you pissed at me.”

“Snitch,” Jasper sneered. “He won’t do anything to me.”

Torem glared at Jasper but listened to whatever Zeus was saying. Toby had no clue what was going on, but he wanted out of this office. His day had already started out bad when he found dead roses outside his apartment door, and now this?

“Are you fucking kidding me?” Torem’s eyes shot to him and Toby turned his face. This was like a damn soap opera. *These are the days of my sucky-ass life.*

Torem shook his head as he pushed the phone back in his pocket. “Leave it to you to have something like this happen.” He backed away and closed the door.

Toby stared at the door, afraid to look up. His body hurt as he realized he was shaking uncontrollably.

“Don’t worry, baby. He won’t hurt you.” Jasper pulled Toby into his arms, soothing his back.

“Him? What about your saber tooth mouth?” Toby felt the hysterics coming, and he couldn’t stop. “What the hell is going on? I have a couple coming in here to fuck me, one returning, and a crazed man threatening to do harm. Is anyone else going to bust through that door that I should be aware of?”

“Calm down, Toby, or I’ll be forced to smack you. It works in the movies.” Jasper pulled his hair back, making their eyes meet. “I’ll explain all of this when you calm down.”

“I–I’m calm.”

Jasper chuckled and nuzzled his face, turning to face him and taking possession of his lips. Toby didn’t know what to think so he

didn't think at all. He opened, not sure he was even in this parallel reality, so he gave in.

Toby jerked when he felt Jasper's hand snake back into his jeans. "Now where was I?" he said as he broke the kiss. Toby was panting, straining to push his cock further into Jasper's hand.

"I see you want me to suck you off." Jasper grinned and let Toby go, pushing down the desk and engulfing his cock once more. Toby's hands grabbed onto the desk, knocking over the cup holding pens and pencils, spilling an old cup of coffee left there.

"Jasper." Toby wailed and moaned, not sure what he wanted, but he didn't want him to stop. Jasper sucked harder, yanking the waistband of his jeans down and inserting a finger into his ass. Toby yelped, trying to pull his legs up, but the pants kept them locked together. He kicked out, trying to rid his legs of the denim.

"Let me help."

Toby jumped when he heard Zeus's voice. He tried to push Jasper off of him, but Zeus grabbed his hands. "It's okay, little one." Toby gulped, keeping his eyes locked onto Zeus's as Jasper sucked his cock. This was so damn strange.

"Do you like what Jasper's doing?"

Toby nodded. His lips parted to tell Zeus, but no words came out. He licked his lips when he saw the huge bulge form in Zeus's jeans. With a man this size, he had to have a large cock. He reached up, feeling braver than he really was, and massaged the swell.

"Fuck," Zeus moaned, placing his hand over Toby's. Zeus reached over the desk and tugged until Toby's pants fell away. He pulled Toby's legs back, swirling his thumbs over Toby's calves. Still riding the bravado train, Toby unzipped Zeus's pants, pulling them down to expose the biggest cock he'd ever seen. Maybe he was hasty in freeing the beast.

"Would you like to suck it?" Zeus lowered, putting his cock at Toby's eye level. His hips bucked when a second finger entered him. Toby opened his mouth, taking Zeus in. There was no way he would

be able to take all of it. It was too damn big, so he settled for sucking the head. Zeus's right hand lowered Toby's leg onto Jasper's back and then began to skim his upper body as Toby tried his best to suck cock.

Jasper released Toby's dick, and he whimpered around Zeus's. "I thought you had a meeting?"

"Couldn't stay away." Zeus groaned.

"He's ready."

Zeus pulled from Toby's lips, circled around the desk, and then settled between his legs.

"Say no now if you don't want this," Zeus warned.

Toby opened when Jasper came around and tapped his lips with his cock.

"Can you let him answer first, babe?"

Jasper stuck his bottom lip out. "Fine."

Toby tried to follow the delicious cock, but Jasper cupped his face and pulled free. "Answer him, so I can fuck your mouth."

"Fuck me," Toby cried, not caring about his resolve to stay away. These two were playing havoc on his nerves, and he wanted to come. The need to be with the two was growing stronger, and no matter how much his brain said no to a ménage, he couldn't resist the pair.

He tried to pull Jasper back into his mouth, but the redhead shook his head. "Wait until he takes you. You're not biting my dick off."

Toby didn't understand until the head of Zeus's cock slid in. "Fuck!"

"Told you." Jasper smiled. "He's hung like a damn stud horse." Jasper grabbed the base of his cock and pushed back into Toby's mouth. He greedily sucked it in.

"Fuck, you're so damn tight," Zeus moaned.

"I taught him how to talk." Jasper chuckled and pushed his cock further in. Toby's eyes rolled back as Zeus pounded into his ass. His legs were thrust back to his head as Zeus gave no mercy.

"Don't be too rough with him. You know what he is."

“Sorry.” Zeus eased back some.

Toby let the comment slip past him, too busy chasing his orgasm to care right now. He knew it would hit him later. Later was fine with him.

“Toby!” Zeus called out as hot spurts bathed his channel. Toby didn’t want it to be over. He sucked Jasper harder, desperate to find his own release.

“My turn.” Jasper pulled free, leaving Toby feeling empty. Zeus appeared down by his face.

“Mine,” Zeus whispered and took Toby’s mouth in a passionate kiss. He groaned and bit Zeus’s lip when Jasper entered him. His hand reached down and wrapped around his own cock, but Zeus pushed his hand away. The large man’s naked body leaned over Toby and then Zeus sucked his cock in. Toby hissed and gasped at the dual sensation, rocketing closer to the edge.

“Do you accept me as your mate, Toby?” Jasper asked.

“Yes, Jasper.” Toby was lost in the throes of passion, realizing at the last minute that Zeus had moved out of the way and Jasper was lifting him up. He cried out when Jasper bit into his shoulder. His cock pulsed and then shot out ropes of cum.

“Hell,” Zeus said from behind him. Toby felt Zeus push in behind him, holding him up as Jasper fucked him into next year. The man released his hold on Toby’s neck and cried out his name, adding to Zeus’s seed in his ass.

“Shit, your little ass is going to wear me out.” Jasper kissed Toby and then Zeus. Toby wanted some of that. He pulled at both of them, joining in the kiss and turning it into a sloppy three-way.

* * * *

Avanti eyed the little human coming through the door with his Alpha and Jasper. Torem had told them about Zeus having two mates. It had shocked them all.

“Guess it’s true.” Taz stood next to him, watching as Jasper fussed over the little man. The guy knocked Jasper’s hand away, glaring up at the redhead.

“Should we introduce ourselves?” Taz asked.

“Nah, let him get used to Zeus and Jasper, and then next year when he has adjusted to them, we’ll say hi.”

Taz chuckled. “More like next century. How the hell do you get used to Jasper?”

“I heard that,” Jasper called out from the foyer.

* * * *

Zeus hovered over Toby, terrified he would break a bone. Humans were fragile as hell.

“Will you stop that?” Jasper snapped at him. “He’s fine. I’ve been around plenty of humans, and they are stronger than you think.”

“Would you two mind explaining all of this to me now? I kept my part of the agreement and came home with you, now spill.”

Zeus pulled Toby into his lap, sitting down on the couch in his office. Jasper cuddled into his side, and Zeus put his arm around his redheaded mate, pulling him close. “I’m trying to find the right words.”

“We’re not human. We are shifters. Wolves in human form and you are our mate.”

Leave it to Jasper to be delicate about it. Zeus could smell the fear coming off of Toby, and he didn’t like it. The thought of either of his mates being uncomfortable or afraid made him want to kill whoever was causing the problem. He couldn’t kill Jasper, so he ran his hand over Toby’s back instead.

“I think I need a drink. As a matter of fact, I know I do.” Toby looked around Zeus’s office, his eyes settling on the bar in the far corner.

Jasper shot out of Zeus’s arms. “How old are you?”

“Twenty-three, why?”

Jasper let out a long breath. “Because I thought I would have to take my ass to jail for a minute there.”

Zeus chuckled at his strange man. Jasper was definitely one of a kind. Toby slid from Zeus’s lap, heading over to the bar. “I really need that drink.”

Toby didn’t pour a glass. He pulled the top off of the decanter and tilted his head back. Jasper and Zeus watched in stunned disbelief. “Should we stop him?” Jasper asked.

Zeus watched Toby wipe his mouth and set the crystal down. “I think he’s done.” Nope, Toby lifted it up again and took a hard swallow, his face souring once he set it back down for the second time.

They sat there for some time watching Toby empty the decanter. Jasper had an urge to stop him, but knew it must be shocking to find out that humans weren’t the only beings on this planet.

So he and Zeus sat there and watched.

“Now should we stop him?” Jasper stood, walking over to Toby. “Do you want a glass, or I could go get you a straw?”

“I’m fine.” Toby’s hand swiped through air, missing the crystal.

“Okay, little man. I think you’ve had enough.” Jasper tried to lead Toby away, but the human shrugged him away, trying once again unsuccessfully to grab the alcohol.

“I fucked a wolf,” he slurred.

“Two actually, now come sit down before you fall over.” Jasper hauled Toby up and over his shoulder, carrying him back to the couch.

“Does that count as bestiality? ‘Cause if it does, that’s gross.” Toby scrubbed his face and blinked at Jasper and then Zeus. “You guys are cute.” He giggled.

“So are you.” Zeus pulled Toby from Jasper’s arms, settling him back on his lap. “Are you going to be okay?”

“Sure, sure, I just have to rethink the whole world. No biggie.” Toby waved his hand around, smacking Jasper in the face. “Oops, sorry.”

“I think he needs to sleep this off.”

“We’ll put him in our bed.” Zeus stood, cradling his intoxicated mate in his arms. He rolled his eyes when he spotted Minsheng and Yasuko heading their way.

“One more soldier?” Minsheng asked.

“No, another mate.” Jasper ruffled Minsheng’s hair. The short man batted Jasper’s hand away, glaring up at him.

“Minsheng,” Zeus called his name in warning.

“I no girl. He not ruffle me like that.” Minsheng kicked at Jasper’s shins, his mate hopping around on one foot while holding the other.

“Damn it, Minsheng, apologize, or I’m going to hand you over to Torem.”

Minsheng’s face pulled back in rage. “I sorry for kicking, but no ruffle hair. It take long time to fix.”

Jasper waved a fist at Minsheng. “Little or not, do that again and I’ll ball you up and use you to play basketball, buddy.”

Minsheng charged toward Jasper, Yasuko pulling him back. “No,” his soft voice protested.

Minsheng’s face softened when he stared at the other man, and then his lip pulled back when he looked at Jasper. “No ruffle.”

“Fine, squirt, I won’t touch you again.” Jasper ruffled Minsheng’s hair and then took off down the hall. He could hear his mate’s laughter long after Jasper and Minsheng disappeared.

“Sorry,” Yasuko spoke demurely.

“It’s not your fault. Why don’t you go find Minsheng and calm him down?”

Yasuko bowed and headed in the direction the two had gone.

Zeus readjusted Toby in his arms and took him to his, correction, *their* bedroom. Toby’s lips were parted, and small snores were coming from them.

He smiled and tucked his mate in.

Jasper came running into the room, panting. He slammed the door closed and locked it, throwing his body against it as he smiled. Banging started, and Zeus had had about enough.

“Is he still sleeping?”

“Out cold.” He gently moved Jasper aside, opening the door and glaring at an unfazed Minsheng. “Go away.”

“Fine, but he not have you all the time. I find him alone and then kick his butt.” Minsheng twisted his lips up and then stomped off.

“I think you made a friend,” Zeus teased.

“Yeah, buddy for life. Just hide all the sharp objects.”

Zeus pulled Jasper into his arms, staring into those beautiful green eyes. “How did I get so lucky?”

Jasper grinned and shrugged his shoulders. “How you deserve such a prize like me is a mystery.”

Zeus growled and nipped his chin. Toby moaned and began to move around, both wolves going to his side. “Will you survive?” Jasper asked when Toby blinked his eyes open.

“I think I’m still drunk.”

“I just bet you are. Want another swig, or are you done torturing your stomach?”

Toby rolled over, cradling his head in his hands. “The room is spinning.”

“No, that’s just you. Get some sleep. You’ll feel better when you do.” Jasper crawled onto the bed, pulling Toby into his arms. Zeus spooned behind Jasper, his arm extending to touch Toby’s hip.

“I hope he doesn’t get sick. I’m sure as fuck not cleaning that up,” Jasper mumbled as he settled between his two mates. Zeus rolled his eyes and pulled Jasper and Toby closer, feeling like a king while holding his mates.

* * * *

Toby blinked his eyes open, his head pounding out a staccato beat. Why in the hell had he drank so much? He wasn't a drinker, never had been. As his brain cleared, the memory of why he had done it came rushing back.

Wolves.

Someone moaned and moved around behind him. Toby looked over his shoulder and saw Zeus and Jasper behind him. What did Jasper mean by mate? He turned over, studying both of them while they slept. Did they want to make this permanent?

He thought of the sex in the office back at the deli and was surprised to find that he wasn't as against it as he first thought he would be. The only scary part was these two rejecting him now.

This was different than Robert and Gregg. Zeus and Jasper *both* had been a part of it, and his feelings were involved deeply with this couple. He had been fond of Gregg, but there was no wild explosion when he had stared at Gregg. There was when he looked at either of these men. Now what?

"Stop thinking so hard," Jasper said with his eyes still closed. "You'll only drive yourself crazy."

"I think it's too late for that." Toby watched big green eyes open and stare at him. His cock hardened, and his heart raced.

He wanted Jasper, and Zeus, in the worst way. Had he become a ménage addict now? His hand shook as he reached out to Jasper, running his shaking limb across the wolf's chest. Jasper just laid there, watching him closely. He didn't speak, just studied Toby.

Taking that as a green light, he let his hand slip further down, cupping Jasper's growing erection. "It's okay to want me," Jasper reassured him. Toby nodded, squeezing the hard shaft as Jasper's eyes rolled back, and he moaned, pushing his erection into Toby's hand.

Toby glanced over Jasper's shoulder to where Zeus lay, still sleeping. "Should we wake him?"

Jasper shook his head. "He'll smell us and wake up on his own."

"Really?" Toby asked in awe. What all could they do?

“Come here.” Jasper pulled Toby into his arms, rolling until Toby lay under him. He opened, taking in Jasper’s tongue and fighting to dominate the kiss. Jasper allowed him, grinding his cock into Toby’s.

“Fuck me,” Jasper begged into Toby’s mouth.

Toby was shocked.

“I’ve never topped before.” The idea had his cock leaking rivers of pre-cum. What would it feel like?

“Then now is a good time to learn.”

Toby didn’t ask why they were all naked, assuming these men undressed him in his inebriated state. That was fine by him. He didn’t have to wrestle to get anything off.

He gulped when Jasper rolled off of him and got on all fours. It was like being a virgin all over again.

“Do you need help?” Zeus asked from behind him.

“He’s a newbie at topping,” Jasper informed Zeus, making Toby blush at his inexperience.

“Then let me show you.” Zeus guided Toby between Jasper’s legs, wrapping his meaty hand around Toby’s cock and jerking it a few times. “Lube his hole,” Zeus instructed.

A bottle was placed in his hand, Toby squirting a large amount onto his fingers.

“You won’t need that much.” Zeus chuckled low. “Now prepare him.” Zeus once again guided him. Taking Toby’s hand and sliding his fingers into Jasper’s ass. It felt weird having his fingers tucked away in someone’s secret spot. Although it had been done to him, the feeling was new when in the reverse position.

“Scissor them.” Zeus kissed Toby’s neck as Toby did what he was told. Jasper moaned and rocked back on his fingers, wantonly swaying his ass from side to side. Toby was fascinated by the sight.

“I’m ready,” Jasper said over his shoulder. Toby looked back at Zeus, feeling a little intimidated by what was going on.

“Relax, mate. I’ll help.” Zeus guided his cock to Jasper’s tight star, pushing at his ass to impale his dick. “Now fuck him.”

Toby's eyes crossed when fingers breached his ass, the dual sensation scrambling his brain. "Move your hips, baby," Zeus whispered to him.

Toby began an in and out motion, shoving his cock deep and then riding hard onto Zeus's fingers.

He placed his hands on Jasper's ass, shoving into him hard. "Rougher," Jasper moaned. Toby pulled back and then slammed into his ass hard. "That's it."

Zeus stilled him, pushing him over Jasper's back and took Toby from behind. He wasn't going to last. This was too much. Zeus pulled Toby to his chest and then reached out to grab Jasper's hips. "Watch."

Toby watched as Zeus set a rhythm they both could follow. Soon he was fucking Jasper and being fucked at the same time.

Nothing in his wildest dreams had ever come close to this. Zeus ran his hand over Toby's body and then over Jasper's, trailing his fingers over Jasper's ass. Toby parroted the moves, running his hands over Jasper's ass the same way Zeus was.

"Now you're getting it," Zeus praised in his ear, nipping his lobe. Toby grinned at the praise the larger man gave him. He was amped up now, ready to please either one of them. Toby fucked Jasper harder, watching his cock being swallowed by that amazing ass presented to him.

"I think he's got it now." Jasper keened, pushing back on Toby's cock, meeting him thrust for thrust. Toby felt his ass clench as his climax drew nearer. Jasper was the first to fall over the edge, his anus clamping down on Toby's cock hard.

Toby had to wait until Jasper's orgasm eased before he could move again. Once he was free to go for it, Toby laid into the wolf's ass, pounding out his lust and desires.

Zeus grabbed Toby's hips, fucking him in frenzy as Toby shouted out his release. He fell onto Jasper's back, Zeus biting into his shoulders as he came. Toby spread his legs apart, giving Zeus more room to plow into him. He was going to feel this for weeks to come.

“Holy hell,” Jasper groaned. “You two are fucking heavy. Move.”

Zeus fell to his side, taking Toby with him. Toby cuddled in the big man’s arms as Jasper turned over and swung his arm over Toby’s side.

“Good morning.” Jasper grinned.

Toby lay there trying to catch his breath, wondering how his life had taken such a strange ass turn.

Chapter Seven

Jasper kept patting Toby's ass as they climbed the steps to his mate's apartment. Zeus and Jasper had convinced Toby to pack a bag, telling him he would need one because they weren't letting him go anytime soon.

His mate had agreed, blushing the whole morning. Jasper thought his little human was sexy as sin when in his shy mood.

Toby stopped abruptly, making Jasper run into his back. "If you wanted me in your ass again, all you had to do was ask," he teased.

Jasper quickly lost his humor when Toby began to shake. "What's wrong?" Jasper pulled his mate aside, going into his warrior mode. His eyes locked onto the two dozen dead roses lying on the floor in front of an apartment door. "Get behind me, now."

Toby scrambled to get behind Jasper, grabbing onto the back of his shirt. Jasper scanned the hallway, listening closely for any movement. When he heard none, he pulled Toby into his arms. "Is that your apartment?"

Toby nodded. "That's the second time someone has left those for me. The first time it was only a dozen."

"Let's get you packed." Jasper pulled Toby along, sticking his hand out for his mate's key. Toby gave it to him, and Jasper opened the door, keeping the small human back as he searched all of the rooms. "It's clear."

Toby stepped in hesitantly, looking around before running into Jasper's arms. "Is there something going on that I need to know about?"

“No, I just moved here two weeks ago. I haven’t had a chance to piss anyone off yet.” Toby shook in Jasper’s arms, bringing his protective nature to the forefront.

“Pack up. I don’t want you here any longer than you need to be.”

Toby nodded and ran to his bedroom, Jasper scanning the living room and kitchen once more before joining his mate. He helped Toby empty his dresser and gathered his personal items from the bathroom. The need to get him home where he would be safest pushed Jasper to move faster.

Taz and Rave were waiting downstairs, but since the apartment was clear, there was no need to call for them.

“Is that everything you’ll need for a while?”

“I think so.”

Jasper grabbed his mate’s bag and held his free hand out, Toby grabbing onto it tightly. They were almost to the apartment door when Jasper was hit hard on the back of his head.

“Run!” He shoved Toby out of the apartment door before darkness claimed him.

* * * *

“Thought you could get away from me?” Robert sneered as he pulled Toby back into his apartment. “I told you I would make you pay for taking Gregg away from me.”

“But I didn’t know,” Toby tried to argue, but Robert wasn’t listening. He yanked Toby into the kitchen, picking up some rope that had been lying on the table. How had he not noticed that?

“Sit.” Robert shoved him roughly into the chair. “Found another couple to split up, have you?”

Toby refused to answer him as his arms were yanked roughly behind his back, rope twining around his wrists. He prayed the wolves downstairs would wonder what was taking them so long and come upstairs to check.

His mouth went dry, and his heart beat out of his chest when Robert pulled a gun from out of his back waistband. Toby glanced over at Jasper's slumped body, ready to cry at the sight. *Please don't let him be dead.*

"I asked you a question." Robert hit him in the head with the butt of his handgun. Toby's head split apart with blinding pain. "Who is he?"

Toby shook his head, trying to clear it. He felt a warm trickle sliding down the side of his face. "My landlord."

Robert hit him again. "The truth."

"My neighbor." There was no way he was telling this crazed bitch that Jasper was his mate, his boyfriend, whatever the hell he was. The title didn't matter, only the fact that Zeus and Jasper wanted him.

He whimpered when Jasper still lay unmoving on the floor. Every cell in him wanted to run to his redhead, but his bound hands and the lunatic standing over him prevented it.

Toby almost peed his pants when Robert cocked the gun and pressed it into his temple. His whole body was shaking with fear. "Fine, be difficult. Do you know what happened after you took off?"

No, and he didn't want to know. All he wanted was to be set free so he could run to Jasper.

"Gregg packed his things and left me while I was hunting you down," Robert said in a high-pitched, crazed voice.

It seemed Gregg had the right idea because Robert had lost his marbles. Toby tugged at the ropes, but Robert had tied them pretty damn tight.

The maniac circled around him, pressing the gun's muzzle into his forehead this time. Toby started to close his eyes but noticed movement behind Robert.

He held his breath when he saw Taz place an index finger to his mouth and then begin to get naked. What in the hell was the damn wolf doing? This wasn't a time to show off his goods. He needed Taz to get rid of Robert so he could see to Jasper.

Toby stared at the man in stunned disbelief as he stood there in his birthday suit. He closed his eyes, unable to believe the bizarre ass shit going on around him. When he opened them again, a wolf was creeping up behind Robert and Rave was stalking behind the wolf.

Robert must have whacked his head harder than he thought. He was waiting for the munchkin people to start singing the witch was dead and flying monkeys to shoot through his windows.

He glanced down at Jasper, seeing his mate start to stir. His lungs let out a breath he hadn't even realized he was holding. Jasper opened his mouth to say something but curled his lips in when he spotted Timmy and Lassie.

Toby stared into Jasper's eyes, trying to convey his feelings before closing them. If things got botched and Robert got his shot off, Toby didn't want to see it coming.

He heard scuffling and then the gun went off. Toby tightened his muscles, waiting to feel the pain of being shot.

His nerves couldn't take it, and he vomited all over his lap, crying as Jasper ran to him and untied his hands. Toby cried hysterically as Jasper pulled him into his arms, rocking him back and forth on the kitchen floor.

The reality hit him hard. Toby began to shout out incoherent words as he clawed at Jasper. Horror filled him as the gun blast sounded over and over in his mind.

"Toby!" Jasper shouted his name. "I have you, baby. I have you."

Toby broke down crying, sobbing into Jasper's chest. He could still feel the cold steel of the muzzle pressing into his skin. Toby scratched at his face, trying to stop his skin from crawling.

"Stop, baby." Jasper grabbed his hands, holding them tightly in his grasp. His lover began to rock him again, and Toby continued to cry.

"We called the sheriff. He's on his way." Taz knelt before them and ran his hand over Toby's hair. "He's out cold and won't be bothering you again."

Toby fisted the front of Jasper's shirt, sniffing and sobbing, unable to look at Taz and thank him. Jasper kissed his temple then his forehead, replacing the cold feeling of steel with warm lips. Toby began to calm, tiring himself out from his meltdown.

"Come on, baby. Let's get you home." Jasper stood, cradling Toby in his arms as he walked downstairs. The sheriff met them outside, Jasper assuring them that Toby would make a statement when he was better.

How could he be better after going through that? He clung to Jasper, needing an anchor in the storm of emotions he was drowning in. His lover climbed into the extended cab and held him as Rave drove them back to their house.

Zeus came storming out, grabbing Toby from Jasper's arms and squeezing him tight. "I'm sorry that happened to you." Zeus kissed his temple, adding to Jasper's warm lips and removing the feel of the gun even further.

Zeus carried him into the house, taking him upstairs and into the room they had shared their intimacy in. He laid Toby on the bed, cursing as he ran his hand over the sore spot throbbing painfully. "Call the wolf physician. I need him to check our mate."

Jasper nodded and pulled his cell phone out, talking rapidly into it before hanging up. "He's on his way."

Toby dug his nails into Zeus's back, unable to let the man go. He needed comfort, warmth, and security right now. Zeus took the hint and lay down next to him, Jasper crawling in on the other side, both holding onto him tightly.

Toby must have dozed off, because when he opened his eyes, a plump little man was standing over him, and Zeus and Jasper were standing by the bed.

"How are you feeling?" the stranger asked.

Toby whimpered, holding his arms out to Jasper. The redhead crawled onto the bed and pulled Toby in his arms. "How do you feel, baby?"

“My head hurts.”

“That’s to be expected with head trauma.”

Toby glanced up at the man from under Jasper’s chin. *This must be the wolf physician Zeus had mentioned.* He looked human, but didn’t they all?

“I want him at the County Hospital for a CAT scan.”

“We’ll take him,” Zeus spoke, sitting on the bed next to him.

“Soon,” the doctor advised before leaving them.

“Let’s get you out of these sour-smelling clothes.” Jasper lifted him up, carrying him to the bathroom. Toby looked down, seeing dried stomach content on his shirt and pants. He began to cry.

“I got it all over you.”

Jasper kissed his forehead. “Don’t worry about that. We both can take a shower.”

Zeus helped Jasper pull Toby’s clothes off, Zeus holding him in his arms as Jasper regulated the shower. Jasper undressed and took Toby, and then Zeus got naked as well.

Jasper held Toby as the warm water glided over his body. Toby closed his eyes and let the warmth take away the vileness that Robert had left him with. His eyes snapped open, looking up at the redhead who was holding him. “How is your head?”

“I’m a shifter. I heal pretty fast. So will you now.”

Toby nodded, closing his eyes again. He felt his weight being shifted around and knew Zeus had taken him. The hard muscles pressed against his skin enveloped him in safety, something he needed desperately right now.

Toby glanced behind him when he felt hands skating over him. Jasper was washing his body, running his hands over Toby gently. “I’m not usually so needy.”

“You have a good reason to be.” Zeus readjusted him so Jasper could wash his chest.

* * * *

“I can stand.”

Zeus hesitantly lowered Toby. His mate wobbled a little on his feet but stayed upright. He glanced over at Jasper as his redhead washed Toby, thankful they both made it out of the ordeal alive.

When Rave had called him to tell him what had happened, Zeus was ready to hunt, but his soldier had informed him that the Sheriff DeKalb had the man responsible in custody. The only thing Zeus could do was wait until his mates returned home to him.

He ran his hand down Jasper's face, his redhead smiling up at him. Zeus's felt his chest tighten with that smile. Jasper was everything to him, and now Toby. He would be lost without either.

While holding Toby close, Zeus pulled Jasper into his arms, kissing him deeply and thankful he was alive. Jasper opened, sucking Zeus's tongue in. “I love you,” he said softly. He could smell Jasper's desire. His mate's breath hitched, and his eyes moistened with unshed tears.

“I love you, too,” Jasper cried into his mouth.

Zeus pulled Toby up into their embrace, never letting Jasper's supple lips go. Toby clung to him, holding on as Zeus embraced both men.

It was Toby who initiated the first move. He pressed his cock into Zeus side, his face rocking from side to side on Zeus's arm. “Make me forget,” he cried.

Jasper swept in behind Toby as Zeus covered his front, sandwiching the human between them. “You're safe, mate,” Zeus reassured him.

Toby latched onto Zeus's nipple, standing on his toes to reach it. Zeus chuckled and lifted Toby up, his shorter mate wrapping his legs around Zeus's waist. Jasper's hands explored both men, kissing the back of Toby's neck.

Zeus's body shivered from the water cascading down his skin and his mate suckling at his chest. His cock pressed into his shorter mate, kissing Jasper as Toby bit his nipple.

Jasper whimpered into his mouth. "Fuck me, Zeus."

Zeus turned Toby around, handing him over to Jasper as he turned Jasper around. Jasper pressed Toby into the shower wall, Zeus wrapping Toby's legs around his waist to keep them out of his way as he pressed his cock into Jasper's hole. Zeus stilled, waiting for Jasper to signal he was ready. His mate moved around, readjusting Toby so he could impale the shortest of the three. Once Jasper was snuggly inside Toby, he nodded.

Zeus inched his way in, his hands pressed against the shower wall as he bottomed out. He pulled back until only the head remained and then slammed into Jasper's ass, knowing how much his redhead liked it rough.

Jasper groaned and started thrusting into Toby. Zeus leaned forward, taking Toby's mouth, his smallest mate grabbing his face, kissing and nipping his lips. Jasper slammed back and then forward, Zeus holding still as Jasper fucked and was fucked.

"That's it, baby, fuck me," Zeus said when he pulled away from Toby. "Show me what you like." He was getting pretty good at talking during sex.

Jasper began to piston back and forth, driving Toby into the wall and damn near knocking Zeus off of his feet.

"Yes," Toby cried out. Hmm, it seemed someone else liked a little rough play as well. Zeus filed that away for future reference as Jasper made his toes curl. He nipped the back of Jasper's neck and then sank his canines into his redhead's shoulder.

Jasper bucked and cried out, his hole flexing as he came. Zeus took over, grabbing Jasper's hips and pulling his mate onto his cock. Toby was next to shout, his fingers digging into Zeus's arms.

Zeus thrust a few more times and then joined his men, growling out his orgasm. He pulled back, allowing Jasper and Toby to move.

The three washed and then dried, getting ready to take Toby to the hospital. Although his mate seemed physically fine, Zeus didn't want to chance it.

"Can you walk downstairs on your own?" he asked as he pulled a shirt over his head. Toby was digging through his bag, pulling out some jeans and a shirt.

"I'm not dizzy anymore." Toby pulled his jeans on, and then sat down to pull his socks on. "I think I can manage."

"I'm not chancing it. I'll carry you," Jasper stated.

Zeus could see now that Jasper was enjoying coddling the smallest of them. He could understand his redhead's need to do so. Toby was pocket-sized. It made him want to roll the human up in cotton and protect him from the world.

He smiled at the way the two bantered back and forth, Toby protesting being treated like a baby. Zeus quirked a brow. Only moments before, his mate welcomed it. But he understood Toby's need. The man had just been through a horrific ordeal.

"Let's head out." Zeus waved the two bickering men past him and shut the bedroom door.

* * * *

Jasper swatted Toby's hand when he tried to pull away. "I'm not taking any chances." He glared at Zeus when his mate chuckled. He wasn't helping.

The three walked into the emergency room, explaining to the nurse behind the desk what had happened and that Toby was urged to come in for a head exam. Jasper bit his tongue with that. It was too easy.

"I'm fine," Toby griped.

"Then it should be a piece of cake to get this done." Jasper smacked Toby's bottom and led him to a hard plastic chair. "Stop pouting, your face will freeze that way."

Jasper stood after an hour's wait, ready to follow his human mate, but the nurse reassured him she could handle his hellion partner.

Jasper curled into Zeus's arms, finally allowing his brain free rein to soak up what had taken place. "I was terrified that man would kill Toby," he confessed.

Zeus ran his hand up and down Jasper's arm. "I know, but you did an excellent job."

"At what, passing out? It was Rave and Taz who saved him." That didn't sit well with Jasper. He should have been the one to protect his mate, not laid out kissing the floor. He gritted his teeth at his failure.

"I can smell your anger. It wasn't your fault."

"Yes, it was. I should have been more alert."

Zeus sighed. "And that man shouldn't have been in our mate's home. There are a lot of should haves and would haves. You'll drive yourself crazy if you don't let it go."

How could he let it go? Toby almost died on his watch. That was unacceptable. Jasper laid his head on his mate, taking a small amount of comfort from the Alpha. Zeus's fingers entwined in his, giving them a light squeeze. Jasper let out an exhale of air.

His life had gone from one extreme to the next since coming to Pride Pack Valley. Not only was he mated to the Alpha, he had a human mate as well and failed in keeping the little man safe.

Zeus's hand tightened on his arm, telling him without words that he was there for him. How had all this happened in two days? He was afraid to ask what next.

The nurse came and told them that Toby was taken to a room. "Why, what's wrong with him?" Jasper sat up quickly.

"Nothing, it's standard procedure. The doctor will discuss the scan when he reads it. You two can go in. He's asking for you both."

Zeus and Jasper followed the nurse to a small room. Toby looked so small lying on that gurney. Zeus held Jasper's hand, stopping him from running to their mate. "Let him rest."

Jasper didn't want to but nodded as he watched Toby sleep. "He looks so fragile."

"I know." Zeus held on to Jasper, knowing that he needed the comfort.

* * * *

Toby lay there listening to the pair. He thought back to the declaration the two made to each other in the shower and wondered why a jolt of sadness ran through him at the thought of them not saying it to him. *Duh, they just met you, dumbass.*

It still bothered him. He opened his eyes when the doctor came in and spoke to him about his scan, telling him everything looked normal. That was a laugh. With everything that had happened, it should have looked like a Pac Man maze.

He thanked the doctor and got dressed, avoiding looking at the two gorgeous men. It was night out when they finally left the hospital, Jasper still insisting on coddling him.

Toby pulled away, feeling like a third wheel in this harem. He was being childish, but his feelings had been injured along with his head.

"Will you stop it?" Jasper argued. "I'm going to keep holding it, so get used to it."

"I don't need you to hold my hand. I'm a grown man and can take care of myself."

"Are you feeling okay?" Zeus asked him.

Toby rolled his eyes. "Just peachy."

He stomped off before Jasper had a chance to grab him. Toby wasn't sure where he was going, but his head needed sorting out. Zeus and Jasper caught up with him easily. "Go away."

"No," Jasper snapped. "Stop acting like this. We only want to protect you."

"Is that all you want with a side of ass?" Toby spat out. "A toy to play with and protect?"

“What the hell is your malfunction?” Jasper grabbed his arm and swung him around. “Do you think all we want is to toy with you?”

“If the shoe fits.” Toby snatched his arm back and kept walking. “I can’t believe I allowed myself to fall for your bullshit.”

“And what in the hell is that supposed to mean?” Zeus barked out.

Toby faltered in his step, the large man’s voice pulling at him to turn around and go back to him. Toby shook it off and continued on. He wasn’t going to be anybody’s fool anymore.

You’re the only one acting like a damn fool, his inner voice snarled. These men obviously care about you. So they didn’t declare their love, get over it.

“Shut the hell up,” he snapped at his common sense, not wanting to hear it right now. He was too busy wallowing in self-pity to hear the truth.

“I think you need to have those scans read for a second opinion,” Jasper said as he caught up with Toby.

Toby screamed when he was slammed against a brick wall, Jasper and Zeus changing into wolves right in front of his eyes.

Chapter Eight

Zeus snapped and snarled as the three vampires emerged from the alleyway. They stayed together, trying to push Zeus and Jasper back. One of the undead in the back tried to inch closer to Toby. *Oh hell no!*

“What the fuck?” Toby shouted when the three hissed and bared their fangs. Zeus cut the one off that tried to leap toward his smallest mate.

“I’m getting really fucking tired of being a victim here,” Toby shouted at all of them. Zeus knew Toby was lashing out. He met two men, had sex with them, was told paranormal creatures existed, and then his life was almost lost, and now vampires were attacking. He could see his mate starting to crack.

There was nothing he could do about it at the moment. Right now he had to protect his.

He growled when Toby took off. Zeus took off after his fleeing mate, stopping Toby in his tracks. Jasper came running up behind them, twisting around and giving a warning snarl.

They had to get off the streets before a human saw them. Zeus pushed Toby back as Jasper did the same with the vampires. They ended up at the mouth of the alley when flashing lights splashed across the building, headlights illuminating the group.

Sheriff Jesse DeKalb, a Grey wolf shifter, and Deputy Craig Hanes, a human, got out of their cruisers, Jesse’s canines descending as he spotted the trio of vampires. Zeus focused on his mates now that the sheriff and deputy were here. He still kept one eye on the undead though.

“Do you want me to take him home?” Deputy Craig Hanes asked.

Zeus nodded. He could fight better knowing one of his mates, the weakest of them, physically, was safely tucked away at home.

Craig pulled Toby's frozen form into the squad car, talking softly to him and closing the back door. The deputy climbed into the cruiser and drove away. Jasper whimpered, and Zeus licked his pelt.

"I see we're going to have the same problem as the Brac pack." Jesse pulled his gun holster from around his waist and laid it on the ground. He shifted and trotted over to stand next to Zeus and Jasper. The three wolves backed the vampires into the alley, leaping and tearing into them.

The undead fought with a strength that surprised Zeus. They weren't so easy to take down. He kept one eye on Jasper, who seemed to be handling his own. Zeus missed seeing the extended claws as they swept across his shoulder until it was too late. He howled and locked his jaw on the vampire's arm, shaking his head back and forth rapidly.

In what felt like hours, the wolves had finally killed the three vampires. Jesse was the first to shift back. "I'll take care of the bodies. Get your mate home."

Zeus nodded and pushed at Jasper to leave. Although wolves were used to seeing each other naked, he didn't like the fact that another man was exposed to his mate.

They ran through the outlying forest until they reached the back door. Zeus shifted. "Don't shift until we're in our room."

He could see Jasper rolling his eyes but ignored it. Zeus stared at his mate as they made their way upstairs. This was the first time he had seen Jasper in his Timber wolf form, and he was breathtaking, and huge. Not as big as Zeus, but larger than any of his soldiers.

"You really need to get over that jealous streak of yours," Jasper complained when he shifted.

"Where's Toby?" Zeus asked after he looked around at their empty room. "Craig was supposed to bring him straight home."

They both dressed in a panic, searching the house until they found their wayward mate in the living room with Minsheng and Kamiko. The third of the three Asian men had finally emerged from his bedroom.

“So you not know they wolf?” Minsheng sat next to Toby as he questioned him. “They change all time around us.”

“It was my first time seeing the two change into wolves tonight, and it freaked me out. I mean, I saw Taz in wolf form, but my eyes were closed when he changed. I actually saw both of them change.”

Kamiko patted Toby’s hand, sitting on the other side of his mate. “You be okay, young man. It take getting used to, but you will.”

“I don’t know. A lot has happened to me in the course of a few short days.” Toby played with his fingernails as he stared down at his hands. Zeus wanted to go to him and give comfort, but he had a feeling Toby needed to get this off of his chest.

“We have bad time, too. Not like you. Men take me...bad time.” Minsheng hung his head, and for the first time Zeus actually wanted to comfort the little man.

He had no idea what the three were going through. None of them would speak a word about it. Zeus had tried to take them to counseling, but they clammed up there as well.

He hoped that once they found their mates, they would begin to heal. Zeus wished the Timber wolves hadn’t killed the human smugglers because he wanted the joy of that responsibility, but it was already taken care of.

Jasper slid his hand into Zeus’s. Waves of sorrow were coming off of his redheaded mate. He felt the same way.

“Did you know there are vampires out there, too? They just tried to attack us by the hospital.”

Zeus stared at their backs, his fingers itching to run through Toby’s blond hair and soothe him. Jasper took a step, but Zeus held him back.

“Vampires? The one who suck blood?”

“Yep.” Toby nodded his head. “They have sharp fangs, too. The cops showed up, probably arrested them.”

If his mate only knew. Jasper suppressed a chuckle, covering his mouth with his hand.

“They in jail?” Kamiko asked.

“I think so, but I’m not really sure. I was taken away before I could see what happened. It’s okay, not like I really matter anyway.”

Zeus chest tightened at Toby’s words. How could he say something like that? Hadn’t Zeus and Jasper shown him how much he really did matter?

“They said ‘I love you’ to each other while I was standing there and didn’t tell me.”

“That strange.” Kamiko patted Toby’s shoulder.

Zeus walked into the room, pulling Jasper along with him. “Is that what you are so sad about?”

Toby’s mouth hung open. He looked between Zeus and Jasper and then his eyes lowered. “You shouldn’t eavesdrop. It’s not polite.”

“While I would normally agree with you, this isn’t going to be one of those times. Answer me.”

Toby shot up from the couch, poking his finger into Zeus’s chest. “How would you feel if Jasper and I said ‘I love you’ to each other while you were standing there and ignored you?”

Zeus pulled Toby’s fighting frame into his arms. “I’m sorry, baby. It wasn’t intentional.” He pulled at Toby’s chin until his mate was looking at him, okay, glaring at him. “I love you, too. Do you think I would risk my life and Jasper’s if I didn’t?”

Toby pummeled his small fists into Zeus’s chest. “You’re only saying that because I said something. Let me go.”

“But it’s true.” Jasper stepped up beside Zeus. “We care about you a great deal. Just because fate gave you to us, it wasn’t instant love. Instant lust is another matter. But you grew on us. We do love you, Toby.”

“Yeah, well, it’s nice to hear it.” His shorter mate crossed his arms over his chest and stuck out his bottom lip.

“This too much.” Minsheng pulled at Kamiko, taking him out of the room.

“Should I go after them?” Jasper asked watching the two men retreat.

“No, they can only be helped when they’re ready. Until then, we can only be there for them if they need us.” Zeus wished he had a magic cure-all, but he didn’t.

“Alpha?”

Zeus turned to see Avanti and Memphis standing in the foyer. “Yes?”

“Jasper’s truck is fixed and Sheriff DeKalb just called wanting Toby’s statement.”

“Will you please go pick up my mate’s truck and talk to Jesse for Toby?”

Avanti bowed, the two soldiers leaving them in peace.

“Oh yeah, I got my ride back,” Jasper sang.

“That still doesn’t mean you can take off on your own,” Zeus warned his mate.

“I won’t. I’ll take Toby with me.” Jasper laughed as Zeus chased him down, still holding Toby in his arms.

“You know that’s not what I meant.”

* * * *

Zeus and Toby watched as Jasper jumped around hooraying when he saw the men bringing in the new pool table.

“It’s like that?” Toby leaned in and asked Zeus.

Zeus quirked a brow. “I had no idea it would make him that happy.”

Taz walked in and was instantly rushed. “You. Pool. Now.” Jasper grabbed Taz and pulled him over to the table.

“Fine, but I don’t cheat.” Taz grabbed a pool stick and chalked the tip. “I’ll show you how a pro handles his stick.”

“Zeus and Toby already showed me.” Jasper cracked up.

Taz rolled his eyes and broke. “Stripes.”

Zeus smiled as Jasper played his game, teasing and goading Taz. It was good to see him happy and feeling at home here.

He grabbed Toby around his waist and hauled his mate down the hall, kicking the door closed behind him.

“I can walk, you know.”

“That takes away from the fun.” Zeus laid his small mate out on the desk, pushing his shirt back and kissing his way down, unsnapping his jeans in the process. He swallowed Toby’s cock, yanking his pants off and tossing his mate’s legs over his shoulder.

“Oh man.” Toby ran his hands over Zeus’s head, bucking his hips and shoving his cock further down Zeus’s throat.

Zeus wet a finger and inserted it into Toby’s tight puckered hole. He licked the length of his mate’s cock, sucking at the head and drawing in the pre-cum. Toby moaned under him, squeezing his ass tight as Zeus pushed in another finger.

After the fourth finger was inserted and moved around, Zeus pulled his hand free and grabbed the lube from the desk drawer, coating his cock and Toby’s crease. He tossed the bottle onto the desk and slid into his mate.

“Zeus,” Toby groaned, lifting his legs up. Zeus pulled them over his arms and thrust into his mate, reveling in the feel of being inside of him. “I love you, little man.”

“I love you, too,” Toby wailed, digging his fingers into the wood grain and bucking up, his face angelic as he moaned.

Zeus thrust faster, grabbing Toby’s cock and bringing his mate to completion. Toby hollered as his seed spilled from him. Zeus tumbled right after him.

“Now that’s a sight I never get tired of.” Jasper chuckled as he closed the door behind him.

Zeus pulled from Toby, helping his mate up and pulling his mate's clothes back into place.

Zeus straightened his own clothes and pulled both men into his arms. "My mates." He kissed each one and then the three sloppily kissed at the same time.

"I love you, squirt." Jasper ruffled Toby's hair, his shorter mate knocking Jasper's hand away.

"I love you, too, but stop calling me squirt."

"Come on, I think our mate wants to play some pool." Zeus pulled Toby up into his arms and kissed Jasper on the lips.

"I've never played, but I'll give it a try," Toby confessed as he held onto Zeus's neck.

Jasper laughed evilly, rubbing his hands together. "I'll teach you how to play like a pro, and then you can take all the soldiers' money."

"I don't think you should be corrupting our mate like that." Zeus laughed.

Jasper waved a hand at Zeus over his shoulder, telling him in so many words he wasn't going to listen. "Short men are sexy as fuck when they're diabolical."

His mate had just confirmed what he had been thinking all along.

Jasper was a nut.

Toby took the pool stick from Taz, looking at it as if it were an alien. He twirled it around in his fingers, watching as Jasper set the game up.

"What do I do?" Toby walked around the table a few times, studying the green felt. He picked up the cube of chalk and ran it over the tip of his stick. Setting the cube back down, he raised the stick up, damn near taking out Taz's family jewels.

"Whoa, little buddy. Papa needs them." Taz hurried around to the other side, a look of terror etched on his face. Zeus held his side as he laughed, Taz glaring at him. Zeus ignored the soldier and slid up behind his smallest mate, helping him with his shot. Toby beamed when one of Jasper's balls went in.

“You’re getting it, but try not to help Jasper win.”

His mate’s face fell, and Zeus kissed him on the nape of his neck. “You’re solids. Stay away from stripes.”

Toby nodded in quick bursts, his pink tongue peeking out as he lined his pool stick up. “Oh god, you’re cheating,” Jasper moaned.

“I am not.”

“Yes, you are, by looking so damn edible and distracting me.” Toby rolled his eyes and took his shot, missing everything. He smacked Toby on the ass.

“You’ll get it.” Zeus then walked around to Jasper and winked at Toby. He pulled his redhead to his chest and ground his cock into his cloth covered ass.

“No fair,” Jasper groaned. “You’re helping him cheat.”

Toby covered his mouth and giggled, winking back at Zeus.

“M–My shot.” Jasper shook his leg out and leaned over the table, Zeus grabbing his hips and thrusting a few times. Jasper dropped his pool stick and whimpered, pool balls gliding across the table.

“I’m outta here.” Taz saluted the three and ran as fast as he could.

Toby ran over to the entrance and closed the double doors to the living room and locked it. He turned around and plastered his back to the wood, wiggling his eyebrows at Zeus.

“Showtime.” Zeus yanked Jasper’s pants down and dropped to his knees, parting the delectable mounds, and began to slurp noisily.

“Can I play, too?” Toby asked from the door, pushing down on the front of his jeans.

Jasper shot his arms out, wiggling his fingers back and forth. “Bring me that cock so I can suck it.”

Toby ran across the room, shoving his pants down before getting to the pool table. “Feed it to me.”

Zeus stood, lifting Jasper’s hips with him. He wanted to suck his mate’s hole and watch at the same time. He was greedy like that.

* * * *

Jasper sucked the head in. He grabbed the base and pushed until the head of Toby's cock was at the back of his throat. Working his throat muscle, he massaged his mate's cock, Toby yanking on his hair as he rose up onto his toes. "Jasper," he panted.

Jasper felt Zeus lower him and then push his cock past the muscle. He moaned around Toby's cock and then started humming. "Oh hell." Toby breathed heavily.

Zeus started fucking him harder. "Suck his cock, baby."

Toby cried and thrashed back and forth, yanking the shit out of Jasper's hair.

He was going to look like Zeus if his shorter mate didn't let go. Jasper let the softening cock slip from his lips. When he did, Zeus pulled out and flipped him over, pulling both legs onto his right shoulder and plowing into his ass.

Toby crawled onto the table, kissing Jasper desperately as Zeus fucked him with the strength of the warrior that he was. He could feel Zeus's fingers biting into his skin, adding that little bit of pain to make him fall over the edge and into the abyss. Jasper cried into Toby's mouth, accidentally biting his mate's lip.

Zeus pounded him like a freight train and then stiffened, shouting out his name as he bathed Jasper's channel with his semen.

"I think I may have rabies," Toby teased Jasper with a twinkle in his eye. He flipped off of the velvet covered table before Jasper could get to him, laughing and pulling his pants up at the same time.

"I'll give you rabies." Jasper tried to get up, but Zeus settled his weight over him. Kissing and touching him all over. He took the hint. His mate wasn't done loving on him, so Jasper laid back and ran his hands over Zeus's back.

"Mine," Zeus breathed.

"All yours, baby, and Toby's, too," he added on, not wanting his shorter mate to feel left out again.

Zeus reached a hand out, and Toby came running to him. He pulled his other mate up onto the table with Jasper, kissing and petting them both.

* * * *

Taz was pouring a glass of juice when Zeus strolled in and grabbed the carton from his hand, drinking straight from it and emptying the damn thing.

“No, I didn’t want any.” He tossed his glass into the dishwasher, grumbling to himself about rude people.

“Sorry.” Zeus wiped his mouth and caught his breath. “Those two are testing my stamina.”

“Next time stick your head under the faucet. It’s filtered water.” Taz yanked the refrigerator open and searched for something else to drink.

Zeus phone went off as Taz straightened, finding a gallon of milk all the way in the back. He opened the top and sniffed, the aroma curling his nose hairs. Was it still good? He checked the date and growled. Guess it was time to take a trip to the grocery store.

“What the hell do you mean he got away?”

Taz set the milk on the counter, paying closer attention to his Alpha. Zeus’s nostrils flared as his fingers clenched his cell phone. Taz was waiting for the damn thing to snap in half.

“Thanks for calling me.” He threw the slender phone across the kitchen. It shattered, and the pieces flew in all different directions.

“Problem?”

“Robert escaped while they were transporting him.”

They both took off to the living room, skidding to a halt and seeing it empty. “Fuck.”

“Where’d they go?”

“Jasper wanted to take him to Theo’s Bar and Grill to get dinner.” He knew Jasper getting his truck back was bad.

The two raced from the house, jumping into Taz's truck, and peeled from the driveway, the smell of burning rubber in the air as they flew toward town.

* * * *

Toby stared out of the passenger side window, happier than he had been in a very long time. Even the events that took place in his apartment were starting to take a backseat to the love his two men were showing him.

He hummed along to the music blaring from the radio, tapping out the beat on his legs. "I'm really hungry."

Jasper smiled and patted his hand. "We're almost there, sweetie."

Toby nodded, staring at Jasper in amazement. How had he gotten so lucky to have not one, but two hot ass men? The thought of a ménage still didn't feel right to him. This was deeper than that.

It was three men who loved each other deeply.

Jasper turned right from Route 22 onto Trenton Street. He parked the truck in a parking space in front of the tavern and shut off the motor. "Now stay close."

"Yes, dear." Toby giggled as he released his seatbelt and opened his door. He cursed when he stepped right into a puddle.

Just his luck.

"Thanks for parking next to a swamp," he called over to Jasper.

"You'll survive, honey."

Toby shook his leg, trying to get the excess water off when a searing pain tore into his thigh. He dropped to the ground, fully submerged in the large puddle as he cried out, cradling his leg.

"Toby!" Jasper shouted as he ran around the truck. Toby heard a *thunk* and realized a bullet had just hit the truck.

"They're still shooting," he cried.

"I know, but we both need to get to safety." Jasper picked him up and ran. His lover stumbled and dropped Toby, Jasper crying out as he covered Toby's body with his own.

Toby tried to get the weight off of him, but Jasper wouldn't budge. He couldn't live with the knowledge that Jasper had sacrificed his life for Toby's if the shooter got a lucky shot off. "Please," he begged, but Jasper stayed put.

"I'm hit, little man. We have to move over to that doorway and out of his line of sight."

Toby pushed with Jasper as they slowly made their way over to the entrance to the barber shop, Jasper shoving Toby behind him.

A truck came barreling down the street, Zeus slamming on the brakes as he jumped out. More shots were heard hitting his truck, Zeus trapped behind his door. "Are you two okay?" he shouted.

"No, we're both hit," Jasper called out.

Zeus roared, shifting in the middle of the street and running to them. He stumbled but managed to keep going. Toby knew his lover was hit.

Zeus covered their bodies with his, blocking out any advantage of sight the shooter may have gained.

Toby could see Taz with his back to the grill of the truck as he talked on the phone. Within seconds, the sheriff and two of his deputies came rushing out of the station. They took cover, obviously being shot at as well.

"Whoever it is must be an idiot," Jasper panted. Toby looked over to his redhead and saw the door he was leaning against was covered in blood.

Chapter Nine

Zeus paced the floors at County Hospital as the surgeon removed the bullet from Toby. Jasper had shifted when Taz carried him into Theo's and raced him upstairs to the apartment above the tavern.

A shifter healed pretty quickly when in their were-creature form. The wolf physician had removed the bullet from Jasper's shoulder and said he would heal just fine. Toby was another matter. He was human.

Although he was mated to shifters now, Zeus was still worried. His mate wouldn't get sick, but having his shorter mate shot was serious. If the shooter had hit him in a vital organ or the head, he would have died. No creature, human or otherwise, could survive that.

"How is he?" Zeus asked when the surgeon found him pacing around the nurses' station.

"Bossy." The doctor chuckled. "He's fine and asking for you and Jasper."

Zeus knew Jasper and Toby had a different kind of bond than they had with Zeus, and he was all right with that, but he knew Toby would be disappointed when Jasper didn't show up. "Thanks."

He shook the doctor's hand and went to find his mate, a nurse directing him to Toby's room.

"Hey," Zeus said when he pushed the door open.

"Hi," Toby said with a slur.

He must still be drugged. "Jasper isn't here."

Toby's mouth fell open and his head hit the mattress, a childish whine leaving his throat. "Why?" he wailed.

Zeus chuckled and readjusted his mate's pillow, kissing him on the forehead. "Because he's healing, too."

"I love you," Toby whined again.

"I love you, too." Zeus pulled a chair up to the bed, running his fingers over Toby's hand. "How do you feel?"

"Like poopies."

Zeus grinned. "I'll take you to him as soon as the doc releases you."

"I want you, too." Toby grabbed for him, and Zeus leaned in, happy at the feel of his mate's arms.

"Who shot me?"

"Robert. He escaped while in transport. Apparently he got a hold of a high-powered rifle before circling back around. The sheriff had to kill him when the dumbass kept shooting at him and his deputies."

Zeus looked down to see Toby sleeping, drool running down the side of his mouth. He tucked the sheet around his man, knowing he would have to explain what happened again once Toby was fully alert.

* * * *

"All right, listen up." Jasper raised his voice over the chattering. "This is called a controller." He looked at Toby, Minsheng, Yasuko, and Kamiko. "I will show you how to play, but you have to learn to take turns. Are we clear?"

"Get on with it," Minsheng huffed.

"Brat." Jasper grabbed the remote and turned the television on. "Since you are so impatient, you can be first." He reached down and grabbed the other controller, thrusting it into Minsheng's hand.

"But I wanted to go first," Toby whined.

Jasper leaned over until his lips touched the shell of Toby's ear. "I bought another game system for our bedroom. We can play naked

race cars later tonight. Whoever wins gets to top.” He kissed the shell and then kissed Toby on his lips.

“Can we play, or you gonna suck his face?” Minsheng asked in an aggravated tone.

“I’d rather suck his face, but I’ll show you how to play.”

After an hour, all four had taken their turns, and Kamiko seemed to be the one who enjoyed it the most. Zeus had told Jasper that Kamiko spent a lot of time in his room, hardly coming out. It saddened him to know what they went through. He wanted to kill those smugglers, if they weren’t already dead that is.

“I’ll be back.” Jasper kissed the top of Toby’s head as his mate’s body wiggled around while playing. He smiled and made his way down the hall to find Zeus. He spotted his big lug coming from a door he hadn’t even noticed before. Jasper stayed back, watching as Zeus closed it and then replaced the large painting that had apparently been hiding its existence.

“I can smell you, love.”

Jasper came out of hiding, walking over to his man. “What’s behind door number one?”

Zeus pulled Jasper into his arms, hugging him tightly. “How was your lesson?”

“Don’t change the subject.”

“It’s a cellar where I keep the rogues.”

Jasper tilted his head to look at the ugly painting of a large woman that looked to be singing opera. “Is Jackson down there?” he snarled darkly.

“I don’t want you anywhere near that door, am I clear?”

Jasper knew this was one argument he would lose hands down. As bad as he wanted to hurt that fucker, he wouldn’t risk Jackson escaping. “Understood.”

“Thank you.” Zeus grabbed Jasper’s hand and led him to his office, closing the door behind them. Jasper’s head fell back when

Zeus pulled him into his arms and began to kiss a trail from his neck to that sensitive spot behind his ear.

“Fuck me.”

Zeus growled, pulling Jasper over the couch and pulling his pants down, bending him over until Jasper was hanging over the back. “Oh yeah, now this looks promising.”

Zeus grabbed the lube from the desk and slicked his cock. “You want to be stretched?”

“Nope, give it to me hard and fast, big boy.”

Jasper should be careful what he wished for. Zeus pulled his cheeks apart and slammed home. His eyes rolled back as Zeus claimed him, biting into his neck as he thrust hard and deep.

Jasper would never get enough of his big bad wolf. He scratched at the back of the couch, trying to get a grip as Zeus knocked the stuffing out of his ass.

“Jasper.” Zeus grunted.

“Make me shoot string cheese,” he cried out.

Zeus laughed hard as he fucked the rest of Jasper’s mind out of his skull. Jasper’s right leg kept trying to climb over the back of the couch, but Zeus kept pulling him back. He cried out as he painted the leather with his come.

“Fuck.” Zeus snapped his hips and joined Jasper in the abyss of stupidly smiling and sated.

“I love you.”

“I love you, too, even if you are a bit squirrely.”

Jasper swatted at him, laughing while he dressed. “Let me go check on the gang and make sure they haven’t killed my brand-new system.”

Zeus patted his ass as Jasper went to go find his shorter mate and friends.

* * * *

Toby stretched and yawned as he climbed out of the furnace the two sleeping wolves produced. He searched through his duffel bag for some clean clothes to wear.

“And where do you think you’re going?” Zeus asked as he yawned.

“Work.” Toby grabbed his hair gel and razor from his bag as well. Although his face didn’t produce much hair, it was still enough to shave.

“I’m not trying to cage you, but I don’t like you going to work, especially after what happened.”

Toby glanced over at Zeus and studied him. The man was trying to be reasonable about this, so Toby would meet him halfway. “Then send a soldier to watch over me.”

“How about I send Jasper?”

Toby rolled his eyes on the way to the bathroom. “You and I both know I’ll never get any work done with him around.”

“Hey, I heard that,” Jasper mumbled from under the blanket. “And it’s all true.”

“Fine, I’ll send Avanti to guard you.” Zeus stretched, and Toby swallowed his tongue. Man, he had muscles popping and flexing just from that act alone. Toby wanted to run to him and lick every one of those bulging beauties.

No, you have to go to work.

“I’m still going to check in on my pint-sized mate.” Jasper tossed the covers off of his head, smiling over at him. The man was simply breathtaking. Those sparkling emeralds splintered into a kaleidoscope of brilliance when he smiled.

Toby hurried into the shower before he changed his mind and jumped into the dog pile for hours of hot and funky sex.

Toby would play middle man, bottom boy, or whatever else he could get into.

He smiled. Boy, what a change of life he had now. Both men set his blood on fire just from one “come hither” look, one smile, or one

single touch. He walked over to the bed, kissing both men before stepping back, knowing that if he got too close, they would pull him in and he'd never get out of there. "I love you both."

"We love you, too, squirt. Sure you don't want to stay all warm and snuggled?"

Toby shook his head and laughed. "As tempting as that sounds, I need to get going." He saw the look on Zeus's face. "I promise to stay safe."

"You better or I'll be pretty pissed."

"Come by when you two get up and moving around." He winked and ran out of the room before either man could grab him.

Toby reluctantly followed Avanti out to the truck. He couldn't shuck his responsibilities just to have sweaty sex. Harold was counting on him.

* * * *

Jasper rolled over and kissed Zeus. "I miss the little bugger already." He sighed happily when Zeus took the kiss deeper. Jasper's legs parted, his cock hitting his lower stomach with need.

"Mmm, I think my redhead wants some loving." Zeus crawled between Jasper's legs and ground his huge cock into Jasper's.

"Oh, I think I do." His legs came up and around, locking his ankles around his big bad Alpha. Jasper ran his hands over Zeus's bald head, the pads of his fingers massaging the smooth skin. There was nothing in this world he wouldn't give his men, even some early morning ass.

He writhed around when Zeus inserted his missile into Jasper's ass, glorying in the feel and heat coursing through his body. His ass clenched and stretched when he pulled up, giving his warrior a deeper channel to plunge into.

"Fuck, Jasper." Zeus leaned up onto his arms, staring down into his face as his hips snapped and swirled, bucked and thrust. Jasper

bowed when Zeus latched onto a nipple, sucking it to a peak. When he released it, the cool air bathed it and the skin tightened harder.

Jasper reached between them and grabbed his cock. This wasn't going to take long. It never did when one of his men was in him. Zeus pulled back and grazed his prostate, sending Jasper over the edge. He cried out, painting his belly and Zeus's with his seed.

Zeus got to his knees, pushing Jasper's legs back, and sawed in and out in quick, short bursts. He stiffened and roared, his seed filling Jasper's ass to overflowing.

"Now that's a perfect way to say good morning." Jasper giggled.

"You got that right." Zeus laughed and rolled out of bed. "Come on, let's shower and check on Toby."

"Do you think he'll be mad if we show up within an hour of him going to work?" Jasper asked as he joined Zeus.

"We'll do some shopping first. How does that sound?"

"I love shopping." Jasper giggled when Zeus picked him up and carried him into the shower. His caveman had come a long way, and he couldn't be happier.

* * * *

Avanti scanned the area as Toby entered Harold's Deli. Nobody was getting to the human on his watch. "Let me check the place out before you go in. Wait by the door." Avanti checked the kitchen and office out, seeing no threat, so he waved at Toby to enter.

"I feel like that damn president or something."

Avanti smiled at the human. "You'll get used to it. You're the Alpha's mate. I'm shocked he let you come here."

"I have responsibilities, you know. I can't just walk away from them and leave Harold in a bind. Besides, I like working here. It gives me a chance to meet the townspeople."

"It is a pretty cool setup. Got anything ready?" Avanti asked as his stomach rumbled. Toby laughed.

“No, but I can get you something.” The mate set about making Avanti an early morning sandwich as Avanti took a seat in one of the back corner booths.

He wanted to watch Toby but stay out of the customers’ way. Taz was coming to relieve him later, so he could pick up Jasper’s truck and go to the police station.

Why Zeus asked him was odd. He hadn’t even been there when it all went down. Nonetheless, he wasn’t going to disobey his Alpha. Zeus must have his reasons. His stomach did a happy dance when Toby brought him a tray with a piled high sandwich and a bag of potato chips. “Looks good.”

“Thanks, you do have to pay, you know.”

Avanti nodded as he bit into the delicious tasting food. He grabbed a napkin and wiped his mouth as he chewed, watching the first customer of the day stroll in. By the time he was finished, the place was packed.

He moved behind the counter but stayed back as Toby worked, watching the human run around to get everyone’s order. Avanti washed his hands and dove in, helping Toby cut through the numbers and get everyone’s order.

“Thanks.” Toby wiped the counter down when everyone had been taken care of.

“Why doesn’t Harold hire someone to help you?”

Toby shrugged. “I’ve asked him, but he says that costs money.”

“Cheap bastard, he has plenty.” Avanti would talk with Harold about overworking Toby. If the mate kept his job, and Zeus or Jasper didn’t make him give it up, he would need help.

Avanti’s head began to spin at an intoxicating scent. His eyes darted around until they landed on a sexy as fuck man walking through the door.

Mine!

He watched the progress as the man in uniform slowly made his way to the counter. This must be the new deputy. Avanti had never

met him before, or any of the new lawmen that took over after Jackson's defeat. There was no need for them at the Alpha's home after that, so he had never bothered to go to the station.

The man pursed his lips as he perused the menu. Avanti wanted to kiss those twisted lips. The man was simply stunning. What was his name?

"Can I help you?"

Avanti moved Toby out of the way, determined to find out what he could. Avanti sniffed, and his senses told him this guy was human. Odd, since he thought everyone in the sheriff's department was a shifter.

"What's your name?"

The man tilted his head and studied Avanti and then a wide grin broke out across his face. "I'm Craig, one of the town's deputies." The man stuck his hand out, and Avanti took it, running his thumb over the back of that smooth as silk hand. "I'm Avanti."

"Nice to meet you." Craig pulled his hand free and ordered his lunch, Avanti getting his order for him. He ignored Toby's curious eyes.

"Here you go, on the house." Avanti smacked Toby's arm when the human tried to protest. "I'll pay for it," he whispered quickly over his shoulder.

"Thanks." Craig took his lunch and exited. Avanti had a strong urge to follow the man, but as Toby had stated earlier, he couldn't just walk away from his duties.

"Either you're vying for my job or something's going on."

Avanti didn't take his eyes off of Craig until he was no longer in site. "He's my mate."

"Hell, then go after him."

Avanti sighed as he shook his head. "I can't."

THE END

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Lynn Hagen loves writing about the somewhat flawed, but lovable. She also loves a hero who can see past all the rough edges to find the shining diamond of a beautiful heart.

You can find her on any given day curled up with her laptop and a cup of hot java, letting the next set of characters tell their story.

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